

FBIS**DAILY REPORT
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INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

A 1

COMMITTEE TO LIQUIDATE AMIO POSTPONES MEETING

JN220919 Doha QNA in Arabic 0752 GMT 22 May 79 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 22 May--It was announced here today that the meetings of the committee in charge of liquidating the Arab Military Industries Organization [AMIO], scheduled to have begun in Paris yesterday, have been postponed following Egypt's rejection of the decision to liquidate AMIO and its refusal to name three representatives on the committee.

A responsible source at the AMIO office in Abu Dhabi has said that Shaykh Faysal al-Qasimi, chairman of the AMIO board of directors, who is currently in Riyadh, will discuss with Saudi officials the question of fixing a date for the meetings of the liquidation committee in light of Egypt's stand.

In a statement to the QNA correspondent in Abu Dhabi, the source said that the committee meetings might begin at the end of May or beginning of June. The source explained that each delegation on the liquidation committee will consist of a financial, a legal, and a military representative.

'ARAFAT MEETS WITH LEBANESE PRIME MINISTER, SOVIET AMBASSADOR

JN201212 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1115 GMT 20 May 79 JN

[Text] Yesterday evening brother Abu 'Ammar, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, met with Lebanese Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss. The meeting was attended by brother Abu Jihan [Khalil al-Wazir], Fatah Central Committee member and Al-'Asifah Forces General Command member, and brother Abu al-Walid, Joint Forces Central Operations director.

During the meeting, talks were held on the current situation, the Arab situation and Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon.

Brother Abu 'Ammar also met yesterday evening with Soviet Ambassador in Beirut Aleksandr Soldatov and was handed an important message from the Soviet leadership on a number of subjects related to the Middle East. The meeting was attended by brothers Abu Jihan and Abu al-Walid.

FATAH CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETS, DISCUSSES ISLAMIC CONFERENCE

JN211201 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to Arab World 1115 GMT 21 May 79 JN

[Text] The Central Committee of the Fatah movement held a meeting yesterday attended by brother leader Abu 'Ammar. The meeting lasted 5 hours. During the meeting, the Central Committee discussed the general situation on the Palestinian, Arab and international levels.

The Central Committee also discussed results of the conference of the foreign ministers of the Islamic states recently held in Fes, Morocco, and praised the positive results of the conference. The Central Committee decided to convey its greetings to the Islamic states which condemned and denounced As-Sadat's policy and expelled his regime from the conference.

The Central Committee also discussed the results of the recent meetings in Damascus. It stressed the need to consolidate Palestinian-Syrian-Lebanese relations on the basis of unifying all efforts to confront the constant Zionist aggression against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples. It also stressed the need to eliminate the minstate of agent Sa'd Haddad.

The Central Committee reviewed the results of the work of the Third International Trade Union Conference in support of the Palestinian workers and people attended by 94 international labor and trade union organizations in Damascus. The Central Committee regarded this to be an effective support for the PLO's position internationally. The Central Committee decided to convey its greetings to the International Trade Union Federation which organized the conference.

The Central Committee adopted several important decisions which will escalate the struggle and steadfastness against the imperialist-Zionist-As-Sadat alliance.

With the date of the talks between the agent As-Sadat regime and the Zionist enemy on the autonomy drawing near, the Central Committee decided to convey militant greetings to our masses in the occupied areas which are consolidating their steadfastness and escalating their struggle to foil the autonomy plan which will entrench the Zionist occupation of our Palestinian territories.

PALESTINIAN MILITARY COUNCIL MEETS UNDER 'ARAFAT 21 MAY

JN211705 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1615 GMT 21 May 79 JN

[Text] The Palestinian Revolution Higher Military Council met today under brother Abu 'Ammar, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces.

Our correspondent has learned that during the meeting a study was made of the situation in southern Lebanon in light of the Zionist military escalation. The council made a number of military and organizational decisions intended to continue the work to step up Palestinian fighting efficiency in confronting Zionist military operations.

The council also reviewed the measures taken to remove the armed manifestations in Tyre and to transfer the military offices outside the city. The council also decided to build a number of shelters in the city and to compensate the citizens whose houses were destroyed by the Zionist air raids.

PFLP REFUTES EGYPT'S 'CLAIMS' OF PALESTINIANS IN NEGOTIATIONS

JN211515 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1450 GMT 21 May 79 JN

[Text] Beirut, 21 May--The PFLP has warned against the Egyptian regime's claims that some Palestinians will participate unofficially in the negotiations with the Zionist enemy.

The front reiterated that As-Sadat's claim is only a new attempt to split the Palestinian ranks and to cut down Palestinian rights with so-called self-rule.

Bassam Abu Sharif, PFLP official spokesman, has stated that the Egyptian regime is continuing its conspiratorial course against the Palestinian issue and revolution. The front, he added, reaffirmed its rejection of the local administration plan, adding that As-Sadat does not represent the Palestinian people whatsoever. The front asserted that it will confront anyone who collaborates with As-Sadat and his plans.

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INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

'ARAFAT RECEIVES CABLE FROM CUBAN COMMUNIST PARTY

JN191817 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1615 GMT
19 May 79 JN

[Text of cable sent to PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat by the Cuban Communist Party Central Committee]

[Text] Brother struggler Yasir 'Arafat: On the occasion of the 31st anniversary of the expulsion of the people of Palestine from their homeland, we affirm our absolute solidarity with you. This event was the beginning of the expansion that imperialism always supported. It was a continuous aggression against the Arab people, particularly the heroic Palestinian people. We consider the Camp David agreement a consecration of the Zionist occupation of the Arab and Palestinian territories. We assert that there will never be peace without the realization of the legitimate Palestinian rights, the return of the Palestinian people to their homeland and the establishment of the independent Palestinian state.

Again we affirm our principled and unchanging support for your just cause.

PALESTINIANS CAUSE EXPLOSION AT ISRAELI NEWSPAPER OFFICE

JN211955 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1900 GMT 21 May 79 JN

[Text] A Palestinian fedayeen group operating inside the occupied homeland has placed incendiary bombs in the offices of the Zionist newspaper YEDI'OT AHARONOT.

A statement issued by the Palestinian resistance today said that a special fedayeen group placed the incendiary bombs, which exploded, causing the destruction of the newspaper office door and wounding several of its employees. The statement added that fire broke out in the building and spread to nearby buildings. The statement said in conclusion that the fedayeen group returned safely to its base after insuring that the operation had succeeded.

KUWAIT

TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER ENDS TALKS

ID210910 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0700 GMT 21 May 79 LD

[Text] Kuwait, 21 May--Turkish Foreign Minister Gunduz Okcun has concluded 2 days of talks with Kuwaiti leaders. His final meeting was with heir apparent and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Sabah.

Okcun will leave Kuwait later today at the end of his visit to discuss furthering relations between the two countries as well as a number of political questions, foremost of which is the Middle East problem.

Okcun Comments

ID211336 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0700 GMT 21 May 79 LD

[Text] Kuwait, 21 May--While seeking to increase its cooperation with the Arab countries and the PLO, Turkey wants to preserve its even-handed relations with the Arabs and Israel, Turkish Foreign Minister Gunduz Okcun is reported to have said in an interview with Kuwait's AL-QABAS. The paper added that Okcun said Turkey has relations with all countries and "should be considered similar to the West European countries which maintain equal relations with the Arabs and Israel alike."

He added that Turkey believes the Middle East problem cannot be solved except through a just settlement of the rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination and establishment of an independent state, as well as the withdrawal of Israel from all occupied Arab territory including Jerusalem. He said he discussed the matter with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah when he met him yesterday.

Okcun also said that the Turkish Government considers the PLO the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, but it feels that the establishment of a PLO office in Ankara is "unimportant at present, as the important thing is the strengthening of relations between the two sides."

The Turkish foreign minister described his talks with Kuwaiti leaders, which included talks yesterday with Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah, as extremely successful. He added that his talks with Shaykh Jabir covered the bolstering of relations between the two countries, particularly in the economic field, as well as an increase in trade and establishment of joint ventures in Turkey.

INDIAN EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER RESUMES TALKS

ID210912 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0700 GMT 21 May 79 LD

[Text] Kuwait, 21 May--Visiting Indian External Affairs Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee resumed his talks this morning with Kuwaiti leaders on bilateral cooperation, Middle East developments and other international questions.

He has already met with heir apparent and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Sabah. He then met with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah. He will be meeting other Kuwaiti ministers later today, the second day of his official visit to Kuwait.

FATAH'S SALAH KHALAF ARRIVES FOR TALKS

JN211358 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1115 GMT 21 May 79
JN

[Excerpt] Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, Fatah Central Committee member, arrived in Kuwait from Abu Dhabi on a visit of several days. During the visit, he will hold talks with high-ranking Kuwaiti officials on developments in the Palestinian cause, the Arab situation and Kuwaiti-Palestinian relations.

DEFENSE MINISTER GRANTS INTERVIEW TO LEBANESE PAPER

NC211348 Beirut AL-BAYRAQ in Arabic 19 May 79 p 6 NC

[Interview with Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh Salim as-Sabah as-Salim by Lebanese daily AL-BAYRAQ--date and place not given]

[Excerpts] Question: Has there been a diversification of sources of Kuwaiti weapons?

Answer: Our sources of weapons have always been diversified so as to serve our country's interest. We have been careful not to commit ourselves to one party and thus depend on that party in our military actions.

Question: The crown prince, former Defense Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Sabah, initiated negotiations on an arms deal with the Soviet Union. What have these negotiations led to?

Answer: I have spoken about the diversification of our arms: We have arms from the Soviet Union, France, the United States, Britain and Italy. As I said earlier, the decisions made on the purchase of arms are based on the quality of the arms and Kuwait's needs for the type of arms that are compatible with the nature of the Kuwaiti terrain and the entire area in general. Thus, in answer to your question, the Soviet arms deal comes under the considerations I have already mentioned.

Question: Is there a gulf military coordination which Kuwait approves of and works for?

Answer: No, there has been no reason for it. There are no imminent dangers threatening the gulf.

Question: Have there been any security developments in Kuwait following the Iranian events?

Answer: There is no doubt that the Iranian events are important as far as the area in general is concerned. However, we consider them internal; they will not affect us and have not forced us to change any internal security decision. On the contrary, our affairs are proceeding normally as before and have not changed. Security and stability prevail in Kuwait.

Question: Have you fulfilled the military role required of Kuwait within the framework of the Arab League?

Answer: We have never shirked any national duty. A military mission has just returned from Yemen after fulfilling its commitment to observe and supervise the disengagement of forces between the Yemeni brothers. We carried out this role within the framework of the Arab League.

We hope that in future the Arab armies will not be compelled to stand guard on the borders of two fraternal states and halt any clash among the brothers.

Question: Why has Kuwait not mandated a force to participate in the Arab Deterrent Forces [ADF] in Lebanon?

Answer: We are present in Lebanon. What is important is that Kuwait participated, as a state, in restoring security and stability. The circumstances necessitated, for example, that men should come from Sudan and funds from Kuwait, and this is exactly what happened. Kuwait has participated in safeguarding security and stability in Lebanon, and it is not necessary to participate militarily.

Question: Is there anything new in the question of Al-Warbah and Bubiyan? Is there an agreement between you and Iraq on these areas?

Answer: Al-Warbah and Bubiyan are Kuwaiti areas and will remain Kuwaiti; there is no dispute on this.

Question: The Saudi Arabian Kingdom has signed contracts for the purchase of sophisticated planes; does Kuwait intend to do the same in the sphere of aerial armament?

Answer: Arms which may be suitable to some Arab and non-Arab countries may not be suitable to Kuwait. The purchase of arms depends on our need for them and on their suitability to our terrain and position.

Question: "A guardian for the gulf" has been mentioned; it has been said that Iran was that guardian and then that Egypt has been nominated for that role. What is Your Excellency's view on the subject? Do you think the presence of such a guardian is necessary, and what will its identity be?

Answer: There is no need for such a guardian. The guardian is God; but before discussing this subject we must discuss the reasons for the presence of such a guardian. When the reasons have been pinpointed and dealt with then there will be no justification for any guardianship whatsoever.

SAUDI ARABIA

AGREEMENT ON F-5'S FOR EGYPT WILL NOT BE SIGNED

ID202025 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1940 GMT 20 May 79 LD

[Text] Fes--His Royal Highness Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the minister of defense and aviation, today said that the kingdom would not sign the agreement on the purchase of American F-5's for Egypt. Answering questions of Saudi pressmen in Moroccan Fes, his royal highness said that the kingdom had not paid for that deal.

No Change in F-15 Deal

ID212120 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 21 May 79 LD

[Text] His Royal Highness Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the minister of defense and aviation, has stated that there has been no change in the deal on the U.S. F-15 aircraft which the kingdom agreed to purchase from the United States. He told a Saudi reporter in Fes that delivery of those aircraft would take place in accordance with the agreement signed between the two countries. He added that the armament program was proceeding in accordance with the program which had been agreed to.

YEMEN--PDRY

ISMA'IL LEAVES FOR VISIT TO ALGERIA

LD201630 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 20 May 79 LD/EA

[Summary] Chairman 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il left Aden today on an official and friendly visit to Algeria at the invitation of President Bendjedid.

ISMA'IL RECEIVES CHILEAN COMMUNIST PARTY DELEGATION

LD191700 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 19 May 79 LD/EA

[Text] Brother 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, secretary general of the Yemen Socialist Party [YSP] Central Committee and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, this morning received a delegation of the Chilean Communist Party, led by Comrade (Victor Alejandro), which is visiting the republic at the invitation of the YSP Central Committee. Bilateral relations between the two parties were discussed at the meeting.

The leaders of the Chilean Communist Party delegation expressed the appreciation of the friendly Chilean people and the Chilean Communist Party for the principled stands adopted by Democratic Yemen, led by the YSP, in support of people's struggles and that of the Chilean people and the Chilean Communist Party, which is waging a political struggle against the fascist clique in Chile, backed by the forces of U.S. imperialism. The Chilean Communist Party delegation also expressed its admiration for the great achievements and gains made by Democratic Yemen in the interests of the toiling masses of the people for the sake of building a new Yemeni society and achieving a unified democratic Yemen.

PREMIER SEES SOVIET OFFICIAL, CHILEAN DELEGATION

LD201856 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 20 May 79 LD/EA

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, member of the Political Bureau, deputy chairman of the Supreme People's Council and premier, received at his office at noon today Comrade (Victor Alejandro), member of the Central Committee and candidate member of the Secretariat of the Central Committee of the Chilean Communist Party. They had a friendly discussion, during which the Chilean Communist Party representative praised the principled and firm position adopted by the PDRY toward the struggle of the Chilean people against the fascist clique. He hailed the victories being won by Democratic Yemen led by the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP]. The meeting also concerned itself with a number of issues of importance to the world revolutionary movement and the dimensions of the imperialist conspiracy being hatched in most regions of the world due to imperialism's failure to stem the people's mounting revolutionary tide toward social progress and the construction of progress.

Also at noon today brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad received at his office the friendly Soviet delegation, led by Admiral (Malkov), Soviet deputy chief of the General Staff. A discussion and exchange of views took place in a friendly atmosphere on a number of issues of common interest to the two friendly countries, including the friendly cooperation between the PDRY and the USSR.

During the meeting the brother premier praised the support and backing being given by the USSR to our country, which he described as being on a sound and firm foundation. The meeting was attended by Col 'Ali Ahmad Nasir Antar, candidate member of the Political Bureau and minister of defense.

Brother 'Ali Ahmad Nasir Antar received the Soviet delegation at his office yesterday and discussed with them cooperation between the two friendly countries and ways of developing it.

ISMA'IL MEETS PALESTINIAN POPULAR STRUGGLE FRONT GROUP

LD192052 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 19 May 79 LD/EA

[Text] Brother 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, secretary general of the Central Committee of the Yemen Socialist Party [YSP] and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Peoples Council, received at noon today a delegation of the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front, led by Dr Samir Ghawshah, the front's secretary general.

The latest developments in the Arab region and the results of the treasonous and capitulatory accord reached by the stooge regime of As-Sadat at Camp David were reviewed at the meeting. There was also a review of the present situation of the Palestinian resistance [word indistinct] exposed as it is to a vicious, reactionary, Zionist-imperialist onslaught which aims at exterminating it and the Lebanese progressive nationalist movement.

The brother secretary general reaffirmed Democratic Yemen's support for the struggle of the Palestinian people, led by the PLO, to set up their national independent state on Palestinian soil. He also emphasized the need for unity and cohesion among the forces and groups of the Palestinian nationalist movement for the sake of resisting and thwarting all attempts to exterminate the Palestinian resistance.

YEMEN--YAR

REPORT ON WHO VOTE TO EXPEL ISRAEL DENIED

JN192039 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 May 79 JN

[Text] A Foreign Ministry source has made a statement to SABA' NEWS AGENCY denying a report published by the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-ANBA' on 17 May 1979 to the effect that Egypt, Sudan and Yemen did not want to expel Israel from the WHO. He said that this report is completely unfounded.

AS-SADAT INTERVIEWED BY FORMER OWNER OF DIE ZEIT WEEKLY

NC211125 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0810 GMT 21 May 79 NC

[Text] London, 21 May--President Anwar as-Sadat has stated that the peace negotiations have proved that 85 percent of the reasons for the Arab-Israeli conflict are due to psychological factors and only the remaining 15 percent represent real difficulties. President as-Sadat reaffirmed that when Israel takes one step in the direction of peace, he will take two steps in the same direction.

President as-Sadat further said that priority investments will change in Egypt in peacetime, so that priority will be given to agriculture and spending on arms will be amended. He stressed, however, that Egypt must remain militarily strong. This was said in an interview granted by President as-Sadat to Countess Marion Doenhoff, the former proprietor of DIE ZEIT, and published by the British weekly THE OBSERVER yesterday.

In the interview published by THE OBSERVER, President as-Sadat was asked about the possibility of reducing the armament expenditure in the stage of peace. His excellency answered: This expenditure will be reduced and we might amend it. However, we must remain militarily strong. The president asserted that priority in investments in the new stage will be given to agriculture.

Countess Doenhoff posed the following question to President as-Sadat: Most political leaders exhaust their efforts in reacting to the events, but you, Mr President, have taken the initiative in making the events and you have created new situations. Do you really believe that we can only carry out maneuvers in the direction of great events?

The paper points out that this question referred not only to President as-Sadat's historic visit to Jerusalem but also to his expulsion of the Soviet experts from Egypt in 1972.

Answering this question, President as-Sadat said: I am confident that there always are persons who make history.

In the course of its impressions of President as-Sadat's answer, the paper points out that his excellency did not refer, as his predecessor 'Abd an-Nasir always did, to the great revolutions and invasions, but rather to great discoveries, such as the discovery of electricity, which have changed the face of the world.

Asked whether the reaction of the neighboring states would have been different if the Israeli position on the Jerusalem initiative had been more positive, President as-Sadat said: The question is one of confidence. At the time, the Israelis could not grasp the idea that I actually meant what I said. President as-Sadat added: As you know, I believed that 75 percent of the problem was psychological and 25 percent was factual. Today, I believe that 85 percent of the problem is psychological and 15 percent represents real difficulties. When Israel takes a step forward, I will take two steps.

Asked if he meant that the negotiations themselves should make a change in method during the negotiating process, the president answered: Precisely, because much has actually changed--and the course and its route have been defined. There will be peace.

Asked whether he welcomed the convening of a new Geneva conference and whether this meant that the Soviets would participate anew in the Middle East process, President as-Sadat answered: Why not? We have no objection to this and there is nothing to conflict with it.

THE OBSERVER published Countess Doenhoff's impressions of her meeting with President as-Sadat. She described the president, saying: As-Sadat might appear a simple man to most realistic people. But the president, who clearly rejects all forms of exploitation and who has deeply realized that strength is no longer confined to military strength alone, is more realistic than the world in which he lives. A person is surprised by the character of President as-Sadat. He becomes more astonishing by the strength of his will. At times he is like a Buddhist priest, who is aware of destiny and divine fate and believes in them and responds to them. However, at the same time he possesses other qualities and abilities. He has the character of the peasant and the style of a propagandist. He does not understand the meaning of separation but adheres to the religion of his fathers, which gives him more confidence and faith. He continues to live in Cairo, assuming burdens of problems which are over and above those of other heads of state.

PRIME MINISTER KHALIL MEETS FRENCH EDITORS

NC211530 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1425 GMT 21 May 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 21 May--Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil has said that the negotiations on autonomy for the West Bank and the Gaza Strip will not begin in a vacuum but in the framework of the Camp David agreement, which provides for Israel's agreement to terminate the military rule in the West Bank and Gaza and its readiness to set up complete self-rule there. The prime minister said these negotiations are based on the UN resolutions and are aimed at defining the method of electing representatives of the Palestinian people and the jurisdictions of self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza.

Addressing chief editors of several French newspapers currently visiting Cairo, the prime minister pointed out that these negotiations are not related to the self-determination of Palestinians, because self-determination concerns the Palestinians alone. He said the negotiations are aimed at finding the way to create the Palestinian authority which, 3 years after the establishment of autonomy, could begin its negotiations for self-determination in accordance with the Camp David agreement, which provides for no solution will be imposed on the Palestinians without the approval of this Palestinian authority.

Dr Mustafa Khalil reaffirmed that no comprehensive, lasting solution of the Middle East problem can be achieved without securing the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

Dr Mustafa Khalil told the French newsmen that Egypt believes in Arab solidarity, non-interference in the affairs of other states and the policy of nonalignment.

The prime minister dealt with the components of the Egyptian economy. He said these include tourism, oil, the Suez Canal and agricultural and industrial projects. He said that projects are being implemented for developing the Suez Canal, exploiting the natural gas in the delta, developing present industries by modern technology, developing irrigation and drainage, promoting agricultural production and increasing arable land.

Dr Mustafa Khalil said that the policy of economic liberalization and encouragement of Arab and foreign investments are aimed at promoting economic and social development in Egypt.

In conclusion, he stressed that Egypt will continue building a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East and consolidating democracy and commitment to the principles of freedom and sovereignty of the law under the leadership of President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat.

The meeting was attended by the chief of the public information authority, Safwat ash-Sharif, and the Egyptian press counselor in Paris, Dr Mamduh al-Baltaji.

EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI MILITARY COMMITTEE MEETS IN AL-'ARISH

NC211434 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1324 GMT 21 May 79 NC

[Text] Al-'Arish, 21 May--The Egyptian-Israeli joint military committee met in Al-'Arish today to discuss final arrangements for the transfer of the town's civil administration to Egypt. The Egyptian side was headed by Brig Gen Safiyy ad-Din Abu Shinaf and the Israeli side by Brig Gen Dov Si'on. The meeting was attended by Brig Gen Muhammad Sadiq, secretary general of Northern Sinai Governorate, and, for the first time, by a delegation for the Egyptian Interior Ministry including the director general of traffic, Maj Gen 'Abd al-Mun'im Jabir, and the director of criminal investigations, Maj Gen Hasan as-Samahi.

At a joint press conference Brig Gen Safiyy ad-Din Shinaf announced that 90 percent of the final arrangements had been completed for the transfer of the town of Al-'Arish to civil administration under Egyptian sovereignty. Preparations are still to be completed for the military celebration to mark the handing over of the town on Friday and for the big celebration which will be attended by President as-Sadat on Saturday to mark the occasion.

Brigadier General Abu Shinaf said that, thanks to the coordination and cooperation between the Egyptian and Israeli sides in the joint committee, considerable success has been achieved toward implementation of the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty. He added: In 4 days, sub-area I and the town of Al-'Arish will return to Egyptian sovereignty. The major points, such as organizing the traffic on the Bi'r Lahfan-Al-'Arish road, have been taken care of and the demarcation of the main part of the borders is now underway in accordance with the agreement.

He said that arrangements for the handing over of many military installations, such as the Al-'Arish airport and the water pumps, have been coordinated by the two sides. He added that agreement has been reached on the inspection of certain points.

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EGYPTIAN SOURCE DISCUSSES FUTURE STATUS OF AL-'ARISH

NC220731 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0626 GMT 22 May 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 22 May--A responsible Egyptian source stated that Israelis will not be allowed to enter the town of Al-'Arish after it passes to Egyptian control. The entry of Israelis into the town will first be made possible within the framework of normalization of relations which is expected to be effected within 9 months.

In a statement published in AL-AHRAM, the source stated that Egyptians residing in Al-'Arish will not be permitted to work in Israel or in the occupied territories and that the type of work they will be allowed to do in Egypt will be determined in the future.

The source added that contacts are currently taking place for the removal of the direct telephone lines linking Al-'Arish with Israel, the electric and water supply systems, the monetary exchange system and other measures related to the restoration of Egyptian sovereignty to Al-'Arish.

DIRECTOR OF BEGIN'S OFFICE ARRIVES IN CAIRO

NC221159 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1143 GMT 22 May 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 22 May--The director of Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin's office, Elyahu Ben-Elisar, arrived in Cairo at 1300 on board a special plane on a visit to Cairo which will last for several hours.

He was received at the airport by the chief of the prime minister's bureau, Hasan Kamil.

TWO RELIGIOUS MAGAZINES TO RESUME PUBLICATION

JN221045 Doha QNA in Arabic 1015 GMT 22 May 79 JN

[Text] Cairo, 22 May--The Egyptian weekly newspaper ASH-SHA'B reported today that the magazine AD-DA'WAH, organ of the Muslim Brotherhood Society in Egypt, and the magazine AL-'ITISAM, organ of the Islamic Shari'a Society, will resume publication at the beginning of next month.

The two magazines were suspended last month for criticizing the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel.

NDP COMMITTEE TAKES ACTION ON NOMINATIONS

NC211911 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 21 May 79 NC

[Text] The National Democratic Party [NDP] committee supervising the party nominations to the People's Assembly met today under the chairmanship of the vice president and NDP deputy leader, Husni Mubarak.

Mansur Hasan, the official spokesman of the party, told the Cairo radio correspondent that the committee discussed the necessary organizational procedures, including dismissals from the NDP of party members who nominated themselves as independents and of party members and leaders who do not support the NDP candidates.

The committee decided to ask that the NDP secretaries in various governorates contact those members in order to rectify their positions and to notify the committee of the names of those failing to abide by the party's commitment, so that the committee may apply the organizational decisions to them effective tomorrow.

SOCIALIST LABOR PARTY ISSUES ELECTION POLICY STATEMENT

NC212125 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2048 GMT 21 May 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 21 May--The Socialist Labor Party has again emphasized the importance of bolstering Arab solidarity and of inducing the Arabs to stand in one rank under Egypt's leadership for the sake of development and liberation. In doing so, the Arabs would adhere to the Arab League Charter.

The party has also stressed the importance of backing fraternal Sudan, supporting Arab liberation movements in Africa and abiding by the principles of the nonaligned movement out of belief in Egypt's leading role.

In a statement issued today following a meeting of its Executive Committee under the chairmanship of party leader Ibrahim Shukri, the party expressed its belief that the process of democracy has begun and will never be forsaken.

The party referred to President Anwar as-Sadat's affirmation of the need for new people to assume the responsibilities of legislative and executive authorities. The party said: "In the election battle, the Socialist Labor Party raises the slogan of 'a change for reform.' This is because Egypt needs a comprehensive change to fulfill the objectives of the green revolution."

In its statement, the Socialist Labor Party called for considering Islamic law the basic source of all present and future laws. The party also called on the next People's Assembly to assume its full supervision of the executive authority.

PRESIDENT GRANTS INTERVIEW TO BEIRUT PUBLISHING HOUSE

JN191732 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1625 GMT 19 May 79 JN

[Text] Beirut, 19 May--President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr has declared that the dark image of the Arab situation that existed before the conclusion of the Joint National Action Charter between Iraq and Syria and the Arab summit conference "is about to disappear." He said that the process of Arab solidarity has begun to reflect positively on Arab security.

President al-Bakr said that the unity Iraq seeks to achieve with Syria is a genuine revolutionary action. He explained that this unity is the natural reply to the imperialist and Zionist attempts, the logical step to consolidate Arab steadfastness and the expression of the entire Arab people's will.

In an interview granted to the AL-QUDS press and publications house published here today, President al-Bakr said that this unity is the proper path by which to topple treason, wherever it exists, in any Arab country that might go back on the minimal resolutions adopted by the Baghdad summit conference and the Arab foreign and economy ministers conference.

President al-Bakr affirmed the need to expedite the steps toward unity and to consolidate Arab solidarity.

President al-Bakr said that the conclusion of the Joint National Action Charter between Iraq and Syria falls within the context of the unionist doctrine of the Arab Socialist Ba'ith Party. He added that unity will always remain the pan-Arab goal that will take precedence over all other goals, because it is the shield that protects the Arab nation and restores Arab rights. Further, unity is the decisive factor in the struggle between the Arab nation on one hand, and Zionism and imperialism on the other.

President al-Bakr asserted that the Arab nation will continue to be constantly alert and capable of protecting any weak area within it, despite the political, social and psychological setbacks and shocks it has suffered.

President al-Bakr said that the Arab individual loves good, peace and truth by nature, and stands with right, patience, heroism and challenge. Furthermore, the Arab nation has held out in the face of the most difficult predicaments and difficulties, repulsed the waves of foreign cultural and racist invasions, and was able to do this despite its adversaries' strength and its enemies' treachery.

President al-Bakr said that the agreement concluded between the Zionist entity and the Egyptian ruler on 26 March is a military and political plot against the Arab nation. He explained that the aim of the plot is to freeze the Egyptian front and to make Egypt a springboard for the Zionist-imperialist invasion against the entire Arab homeland and Africa, after liquidating the Palestine issue and keeping the Arab homeland divided. President al-Bakr added: Therefore, the plot is aimed against Egypt and the Palestine issue, as much as it is aimed against Iraq, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and the other Arab countries.

President al-Bakr continued: The Arabs may differ in their outlook on political and social systems. However, no two Arabs can differ on unity, in order to regain their usurped lands and homeland.

Speaking about the resolutions of the Baghdad summit conference and the Arab foreign and economy ministers conference, President al-Bakr said: In principle, these resolutions affirm the impermissibility of relinquishing any Arab right, whether large or small.

Referring to Iraq's relations with the Arab Gulf countries, President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr said: Iraq wants the gulf area to be positively and truly stable in a manner that will achieve the higher interests of the region's states, within the framework of cooperation, respect, the safeguarding of national sovereignty and noninterference in other states' internal affairs.

President al-Bakr said that if such a view is obstructed in any form, the countries of the region must oppose the obstruction. He said that our action should be based on this stand.

Speaking about Iraq's view on gulf security, President al-Bakr said that Iraq is opposed to regional pacts and blocs that are tied to military structures for whatever reason.

President al-Bakr said that any form of cooperation that is not acceptable to the region's states is bound to fail. He said: Flexibility cannot be used in the Arab Gulf region as it is used in other areas. I am confident that if everyone showed a new desire for joint cooperation, there would be a greater tendency in the area to achieve the interests of the region's peoples.

President al-Bakr stressed that Iraq is looking forward to further consolidating relations of fruitful cooperation with Iran in a way that would bolster mutual interests and strengthen the foundations of freedom, just peace and stability in the region. He said that Iraq has always applied the principles of respect for sovereignty, noninterference in domestic affairs and respect for peoples' legitimate aspirations by whatever principles they choose.

He added that the Iranian people and the Turkish people are two brotherly peoples linked with the Arab people in Iraq by strong ties of Islam, history and noble traditions. The historical and religious factors have been crucial in cementing these ties, he said.

He said that the measures taken by the Iranian Government in severing relations with the Zionist enemy and in taking steps to support the Palestinian people in their struggle against Zionism and imperialism are further proof of the depth of this historical relationship. It is not strange that the Islamic revolution in Iran should adopt such an honorable stand on the Palestinian issue and that the task of liberating Jerusalem from Zionism--linked with imperialism--should be the basis of the relationship of struggle derived from the revolutionary concept of Islam.

President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr said that the nature of the nationalist revolution, its revolutionary tasks, the requirements of the Arab liberation struggle--whose central issue is Palestine--and the need to strengthen the Iraqi revolution, which is the base for launching the Arab revolution, necessitate an alliance with the socialist countries, with the USSR heading the list.

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He added that despite differences in viewpoint over some matters, Iraq's point of view regarding relations with the USSR remains the same, as defined by the revolution and strengthened by the treaty of friendship and cooperation. Cooperation between Iraq and the USSR and socialist countries continues to be based on principles of mutual interest, in order to further develop bilateral cooperation.

The president stressed that the meetings that took place in Baghdad on various levels indicate the extent of the strong and proper relationship based on principles and on a realistic assessment that fostered a high level of understanding between Iraq on one hand and the USSR and the socialist countries on the other.

The president said that Iraq's activities in the nonaligned movement are based on the progressive and democratic concept of liberation that stands against imperialism, expansionist policies and discrimination among countries because of their size.

The president added that on that basis, Iraq sought to strengthen its relations with many countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America and among the liberated countries that support the Arab cause and liberation movements in the world. This stems from the conviction that Iraq is totally independent in all of its policies and seeks to strengthen the nonaligned countries stand, to make it more effective in combating imperialism and agency and more serious in developing closer cooperation among the nonaligned nations, in order to increase their development and growth.

He added that the world considers Iraq an important pillar of the nonaligned movement, because Iraq has scientifically applied this policy in the field of international relations and in gaining control of its natural resources and guiding them toward development, as affirmed by the nonaligned conferences.

The president stressed that the revolution in Iraq has done its best to step up its involvement in world affairs, through its efforts to enhance its independence and nonalignment, and that Iraq remains a solid base and a national pillar of the non-aligned policy in playing an effective nonaligned role, alongside its natural role of strengthening and consolidating the foundations of this policy.

SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL ARRIVES IN BAGHDAD

JN220950 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0911 GMT 22 May 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 22 May--(Krinivsky), director general of the Middle East Department of the Soviet Foreign Ministry, arrived here last night at the head of a delegation on a visit of several days to Iraq. He will hold talks with officials in the Foreign Ministry aimed at developing the relations of cooperation and friendship between the two friendly countries.

KING HUSAYN NOTES CHALLENGES FACING ARABS

JN211730 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 21 May 79 JN

[Excerpt] Last night and this morning His Majesty King Husayn, the supreme commander of the Jordanian Armed Forces, attended a tactical exercise that employed live ammunition. The exercise was conducted by units from the 3d Royal Armored Division, with the participation of the Royal Air Force. The exercise included various tactics, including night combat, occupation of positions, counterattacks and several other tactics.

Addressing his comrades-in-arms at the end of the exercise, his majesty the supreme commander said: Luckily, this exercise comes at a time when we are about to celebrate our national days, independence day and army day. This army is heir to the great Arab revolution and protector of the homeland, its hopes and aspirations. This army carries out its tasks with complete reliability, honor and sincerity.

Brothers, we look to our future filled with confidence in the inevitability of our triumph. We will defend this soil with our hearts and lives; we will defend the nation's right and that of coming generations, to enable them to live freely and proudly.

His majesty asserted that challenges and dangers can only be confronted by men. This nation is now facing these challenges and is determined to overcome the obstacles. Under the current critical circumstances, our responsibilities, particularly here in Jordan, dictate that we concert our efforts and prepare to build our force, which is an integral part of the process of building the intrinsic Arab force and developing it to the farthest possible limit, in order to restore Arab Jerusalem to its legitimate owners. When the rights and the Arab territories are returned, stability will prevail in the area and circumstances will be amenable to achieving progress and to forging ahead in coordinating our position, which has, throughout history, provided humanity with progress.

UN FACTFINDING MISSION MEETS WITH JORDANIAN OFFICIALS

JN211507 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 May 79 JN

[Excerpt] The tripartite committee established by the UN Security Council to investigate Israel's settlements in the occupied Arab territories, in accordance with the UN Security Council Resolution 446, met at the Foreign Ministry today with Hasan Ibrahim, minister of state for foreign affairs; and 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, head of the Occupied Homeland Affairs Executive Bureau.

Welcoming the committee, Hasan Ibrahim discussed Israel's policy, which challenges the world's countries and the United Nations. He also pointed out Israel's continued actions in violation of the principles of international law and international conventions and agreements, especially its practices in the occupied Arab territories and its policy of flouting UN resolutions on the Palestinian people's cause and the Middle East crisis.

Referring to UN Security Council Resolution 446, under which the above-mentioned committee was established, the minister asserted that the Jordanian Government welcomes the committee and is prepared to supply it with all the facts and information necessary for it to perform its task.

'Adnan Abu 'Awdah presented a detailed report to the committee on Israel's settlements, and its policy attempts to accomplish the early Zionist dream--the establishment of a pure Jewish state in Palestine. He asserted that the policy of settlements has become a primary part of the Zionist mentality. The Zionist leadership is eager to keep this policy alive within the various institutions, including its political parties, which have departments to look after settlement affairs.

Abu 'Awdah reviewed the various institutions concerned with this subject, the most important of which is the ministerial committee in charge of settlements, headed by the Israeli minister of agriculture.

Premier Receives Mission

JN211612 Amman JNA in Arabic 1530 GMT 21 May 79 JN

[Text] Amman, 21 May--Prime Minister Mudar Badran met here today with the tripartite UN factfinding committee. The committee is led by Leonard Mathias, Portugal's deputy permanent UN representative, and is made up of representatives from Bolivia and Zambia.

The prime minister reiterated the Jordanian Government's desire to render the committee's task a success, due to Jordan's strong affiliation with this cause, which is the core of the Middle East crisis. He added that this cause is receiving the attention of UN political circles and other world circles, because of its direct and indirect influence on the state of stability and world peace.

The head of the committee thanked the prime minister for the facilities that are being presented by the Jordanian Government and for the spirit of cooperation expressed by both official and popular bodies. He said these would contribute to making the committee's task a success.

SENATE PRESIDENT LEAVES DAMASCUS FOR MOSCOW, DPRK

JN181703 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 May 79 JN

[Text] Senate President Bahjat at-Talhuni and his delegation left Damascus for Moscow at noon today for a 10-day visit to the Soviet Union and the DPRK, during which he will meet with the parliamentarians of these two countries.

In a statement to the JNA correspondent in Damascus, At-Talhuni said that during his visit, he will have talks with Soviet and DPRK parliamentarians on parliamentary and international issues and coordination at international parliamentary conferences, particularly as regards the Middle East issue.

At-Talhuni lauded the support by the parliamentarians in the Soviet Union, the Eastern bloc, the nonaligned countries, and the African and Islamic states for the Arab cause and the Palestinian people.

At-Talhuni said that the support of these countries stems from their full certainty that the Arab countries seek a comprehensive peace based on the principles approved by the Arab summit conferences in Algiers, Rabat and Baghdad--principles which are in line with the UN Security Council resolutions, particularly as regards Israel's full withdrawal from the occupied Arab areas and the recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, according to UN General Assembly and Security Council resolutions.

At-Talhuni said that any peace not based on these two principles will not achieve stability in the area. He pointed out that the autonomy Israel hints at, while continuing to construct settlements, and its view of Jerusalem as its unified capital, mean the continued Israeli occupation of Arab lands and legitimatizing this occupation.

At-Talhuni was seen off at Damascus airport by Syrian People's Assembly Speaker Mahmud Hadid, Chairman of the Palestine National Council Khalid al-Fahum, and Jordanian Ambassador in Damascus Husayn Hamami.

AL-AKHBAR CALLS ON UN TO STATE POSITION ON PEACE TREATY

JN190849 Amman AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 19 May 79 pp 1, 13 JN

[Editorial: "What Is Required of the UN Security Council"]

[Text] It has been announced that the United States is thinking of dispatching several thousand U.S. soldiers to the Sinai to observe the implementation of the separate peace treaty between Israel and Egypt if the Soviet Union exercises the right of veto in the Security Council to prevent the UN forces from undertaking this task.

We believe that the Soviet Union does not need to exercise its right of veto on this subject, because the Camp David agreements and the separate peace treaty between Egypt and Israel are contrary to the letter and spirit of Security Council Resolution 242 and of the other UN resolutions that complement this resolution.

The argument of the United States so far is that the Camp David framework is based on Security Council Resolution 242 and that this framework does not cancel or sidetrack this resolution, but tries to implement it. If this is correct--and it certainly is not--then the United Nations could dispatch its forces anywhere to implement the above resolution.

What is required of the United Nations now is to state its position on Camp David and its concomitants. While the Security Council resolution says it is impermissible to seize territories by force, Israel, backed by Camp David, is seizing territory; while the Security Council resolution calls for complete Israeli withdrawal in return for recognition of Israel through negotiations, Israel openly declares that it will not withdraw; and while the Security Council resolution calls for simultaneous negotiations among all the parties concerned on the basis of complete Israeli withdrawal, the separate peace treaty produced by Camp David clearly violates this principle.

The dispatch of U.S. forces to the Sinai will be a blatant violation of Security Council Resolution 242, just as Camp David and the treaty are a blatant violation of this resolution.

What is required of the UN Security Council is to state its position on Camp David and the treaty as soon as possible now that they have become a threat to peace and security, contrary to what the Security Council was trying to achieve through Resolution 242.

AFP REPORTS ISRAELIS TAKE UP POSITIONS IN SOUTH

NC211113 Paris AFP in English 1055 GMT 21 May 79 NC

[Text] Beirut, May 21 (AFP)--About 20 Israeli military vehicles crossed north into Lebanon at dawn today and took up positions south and east of the village of Shab'a in the eastern border sector, correspondents in the area said. Norwegian members of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) replied by cutting the road from the village and taking up defensive positions after inhabitants called on them to "assume their responsibilities," the correspondents added.

Observers noted that Israeli forces encircled the village on Friday night and threatened to bombard it if inhabitants allowed Palestinian guerrillas to pass through.

Norwegian members of UNIFIL also clashed with "unidentified" armed elements in the eastern frontier section of Al-'Urquq early today, correspondents said. The clash lasted about 30 minutes, but it was not immediately known if there were any casualties. Reinforcements of Norwegian UNIFIL troops were also sent to the village of Kfar Shshuba in the same area.

Observers noted an ultimatum for the village to join the "free state of Lebanon", proclaimed by conservative Christian militia in southern Lebanon, was due to expire at the end of this morning.

ISRAEL SHELLS AREAS IN SOUTHERN LEBANON

NC211932 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 1915 GMT 21 May 79 NC

[Text] This evening Israel began shelling Al-M'alliyah and Ar-Rashidiyah camp in the south. An Israeli force entered the town of Shab'a while the Israeli Air Force intensified its sorties over the border areas at low altitude.

VOL REPORTS ON SITUATION IN BEIRUT, AL-MATN AREA

NC220725 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 0615 GMT 22 May 79 NC

[Excerpts] Our correspondents have reported that tension has returned to the traditional areas in the commercial sector in Beirut and the southern suburb. One person was killed in 'Ayn ar-Rummanah and two others were wounded in Ash-Shiyah by sniper fire. Until dawn today sniper fire was heavy in the southern suburb of Beirut, particularly in Ash-Shiyah, 'Ayn Ar-Rummanah, Badaru, At-Tahwita, At-Tayyunah, Galerie Sim'an and Mar Mikha'il Road. During the night an exchange of fire took place in which machineguns and rockets were used. Calm prevails in Furn ash-Shubbak area where normal life was resumed.

Calm also prevails in Upper Al-Matn and the Lebanese Army has consolidated its positions in Zighrin, Shwayya and 'Ayn At-Tuffahah. However, traffic was light through the roadblocks of the army, the Deterrent Forces and the Syrian Social Nationalists, pending the implementation of decisive security measures. Army Command representatives, Air Maj Mahmud Matar and Jabal Lubnan, and Commander Col Emile Kallas, are expected to visit Upper Al-Matn to inspect the Lebanese Army positions there. The measures agreed upon between the Lebanese and the Syrian Commands will be implemented tomorrow.

CZECHOSLOVAK PRESIDENT HUSAK ARRIVES IN DAMASCUS

JN211701 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 21 May 79 JN

[Excerpts] Gustav Husak, general secretary of the CPCZ Central Committee and president of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, arrived in Damascus at 1545 today on a 4-day official visit to Syria.

President Hafiz al-Asad was at the head of the officials who received the guest. Taking part in the welcome were Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party; Mahmud Hadid, People's Assembly speaker; Muhammad 'Ali al-Halabi, prime minister; Comrade Muhammad Jabir Bajbuj, Ba'th Party Regional Command assistant secretary; members of the Ba'th Party Regional and National Commands, the deputy prime ministers, ministers, the Syrian ambassador to Czechoslovakia, the CSSR ambassador in Damascus and the chiefs of diplomatic missions accredited to Damascus.

The two presidents then proceeded to the honor stand and bands played the Syrian and CSSR national anthems. The two presidents reviewed the honor guards. President Husak then shook hands with senior officials.

President Husak is accompanied by an official delegation including Josef Korcak, deputy premier and CPCZ Central Committee member; Bohuslav Chnoupek, CPCZ Central Committee member and minister of foreign affairs; Andrej Barcak, foreign trade minister; Jiri Kralik, Czechoslovak ambassador in Damascus; and a number of advisers.

A SANA correspondent has learned that the official talks between President Hafiz al-Asad and President Gustav Husak will begin at 1030 tomorrow at the guest palace. The Syrian and CSSR delegations will participate in the talks.

PRESIDENT AL-ASAD GRANTS INTERVIEW TO CSSR NEWSPAPER

JN202047 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 20 May 79 JN

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad has received the Czechoslovak information mission led by (Dushan Rovensky), head of the international politics department in the newspaper RUDE PRAVO, which is visiting the country on the occasion of the visit of Czechoslovak President Gustav Husak. President al-Asad answered the questions put to him by Mr (Rovensky). Following is the text of this interview, which will be carried by the various information media in Czechoslovakia.

[Question] How do you appraise the development of Syrian-Czechoslovak relations so far? In this regard, what importance do you attach to the forthcoming visit of the general secretary of the Czechoslovak Communist Party and president of the republic, Gustav Husak, to Syria?

[Answer] Relations between Syria and Czechoslovakia are developing in a satisfactory manner. There is close cooperation between us in the political and diplomatic fields. There is also similar cooperation in the economic field. There is more than one project in Syria that is being carried out through cooperation between Syria and Czechoslovakia. There is also satisfactory cooperation in the field of bilateral trade. There are also excellent relations and close cooperation between our two parties. We have party agreements and joint programs for action as a consequence of these relations.

I can say in general that cooperation is developing in a satisfactory manner in various spheres. I have no doubt that the visit of President Husak to Syria, the meetings that will take place and the talks that will be held will strengthen these relations and further develop cooperation between Syria and Czechoslovakia.

I am pleased to welcome President Husak, in advance, in our country. He will be welcomed by us as a dear friend in a friendly country.

Naturally, we shall exchange views on other issues of international character. We shall also exchange views on this field, the field of cooperation in matters related to international events. Our meeting will have good results in terms of strengthening understanding and enhancing cooperation between Syria and Czechoslovakia.

[Question] Mr President, in the recent period Syria has accomplished very important achievements on both the local and international levels. What are the most important of these achievements?

[Answer] As you said in your question, important achievements have been accomplished in Syria recently. These achievements are easily seen by anyone who follows or observes developments in our country.

These achievements have come in various spheres. They were in the sphere of popular democracy and in the sphere of increasing our preparations and readiness to defend the homeland and the people's gains.

We have achieved ambitious development plans in this country, especially if we take into consideration the circumstances that we and our region are experiencing.

We have achieved satisfactory results in the education field and in training cadres. We have been able to build and expand a number of universities, a greater number of higher and mid-level institutes of education and, of course, a much greater number of schools of various types and levels.

We have expanded popular participation in government. We have a central legislative authority directly elected by the people, represented by the People's Assembly, which carries out its tasks in the legislative field as defined by the constitution. In every province we have councils directly elected by the people. The task of these councils is to carry out government affairs in the provinces. In future, we will move to other stages regarding local administration. The people will then elect local councils in the towns and smaller population centers, so that these councils can run the people's affairs in the specified areas. This would constitute the broadest possible participation in the government and would embody the widest meaning of popular democracy.

Our popular organizations are continuously developing. We are rapidly proceeding toward application of the slogan that we have repeatedly stressed: Every citizen must have his popular or vocational organization.

As far as our party work is concerned, we are proceeding in a satisfactory manner and are developing our methods of action commensurate with our country's circumstances, those of our nation, and also with the objectives to which we aspire and work to achieve. We now have good qualitative and quantitative party cadres in Syria and we are working for more. This is a natural matter.

As is known, we have in Syria the Progressive National and Nationalist Front. This front, which is led by the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, comprises all parties existing in our country. These are working jointly to achieve objectives in accordance with the methods that have been spelled out in the Front's charter.

When we talk about achievements, we must repeat that these culminated in the October War--a just war that we waged for the sake of a just cause and in defense of the issue of freedom, which concerns us inasmuch as it concerns the world's peoples.

The October War created new things in many fields--the field of strategy, the field of economy, the field of culture and the field of politics. I am not now in a position to enumerate the results of the October War in every field. Nonetheless, observers can, in one way or another, easily feel these results. As I said, many countries tried to benefit from the lessons the October War presented in the military and strategic fields.

The economic results are undoubtedly clear. We can all clearly see the economic turning points that emerged in the wake of the October War. These turning points have actually gone beyond the area to other areas in the world. The October War is a historic landmark whose effects and significance have gone beyond the Arab area to the world arena. Hence, the just October War, which we waged in defense of freedom, is an important achievement for our people and the world.

[Question] Mr President, how do you assess the current situation in the Middle East, following the signing of the separate treaty between Egypt and Israel? And how do you see the role of the recent Baghdad conference?

[Answer] The deep-rooted changes in the area have crystallized the situation as follows: The As-Sadat-Tel Aviv axis, supported by the United States, on one hand; and the Arab nation, united and supported by the Iranian revolution, on the other. I should say that the Iranian revolution was a mighty blow to the heart of imperialist policies in this area.

The Arab summit conference in Baghdad laid down the first indications of this crystallization. Regarding the Arab situation, it established the first marks on a cohesive Arab front in the face of the As-Sadat-Israeli-Zionist-imperialist alliance.

The recent meeting of the Arab foreign and economy ministers in Baghdad was held to effect the implementation of the resolutions adopted by the Arab summit conference. It carried out some good work. The achievements in this respect are progressing steadily and developing in a stable manner. What has been achieved is disappointing to the As-Sadat-Tel Aviv alliance, for this alliance expected a state of despair to prevail among the area's people, thus enabling it to exercise its control over the area and to compel everyone to follow the path it charted.

Despite all the difficulties caused by the emergence of this alliance and despite the political and especially the military developments that have taken place in the area in the way of unlimited support for Israel, the flow of U.S. arms to Israel and the direct U.S. military presence in the area--despite all this, I--and indeed I can say we, the Arabs--are optimistic about the future. This is because we are determined to resist this alliance, determined to struggle against the attempts to exploit the Arab nation and the attempts to use this region in serving imperialist interests, determined to continue our relentless struggle and determined to achieve the goals of this struggle. We are optimistic because we are struggling and fighting for a just cause, because the champions of peace and freedom in the world stand on our side and because we have friends in this world--among the countries of the Third World, the socialist states and everywhere in the world where there are supporters of freedom, justice and peace.

Therefore, I say we are optimistic about the future, whatever difficulties may arise and whatever attempts are undertaken to make us despair.

At the end of this interview I must emphasize the friendship, understanding and cooperation that exist between the peoples, parties and leaderships of Syria and Czechoslovakia.

It gives me pleasure to address, through Czechoslovak television, a warm greeting on behalf of our people to the friendly Czechoslovak people, and to stress to the Czechoslovak citizens our adherence to the friendship between the two countries and peoples.

FOREIGN MINISTER GRANTS INTERVIEW TO LEBANESE MAGAZINE

JN201524 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 20 May 79 JN

[Text] Damascus--'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, has affirmed that the unity of fraternal Syria and Iraq constitutes a decisive reply to the capitulatory treaty signed between the Egyptian regime's president and the Zionist enemy. He said: We are working to reach a formula for the two countries' political unity, and discussions are being conducted seriously. We are exchanging views and will soon reach an agreement.

In an interview with AS-SAYYAD magazine, published in its latest issue, Khaddam stressed that there are no obstacles and that the deliberations are permeated with a spirit of seriousness, desire and faith in Arab unity.

Regarding the situation in Lebanon, Khaddam expressed the hope that the Lebanese parties will achieve national accord and said: We are all hurt by the present situation in fraternal Lebanon. We are now exerting great effort to achieve national accord. We hope we shall achieve, together with all sincere people in Lebanon, a new stage in the Lebanese situation.

Replying to a question on the Zionist enemy's allegations that Syria has expansionist aims in Lebanon, Khaddam affirmed that Israel is behind such talk and that Israel's agents are those who blare out these allegations in order to cover up their agency to Israel. Khaddam wondered how Syria could have ambitions in Lebanon when the Syrian forces entered Lebanon to prevent deterioration in Lebanese unity and when Syria endured all that it has for Lebanon, in order to preserve its independence and national unity.

Regarding the situation in southern Lebanon and agent Sa'd Haddad's declaration of the so-called state of Free Lebanon, Khaddam said: Sa'd Haddad is a petty agent for Israel. His declaration of the so-called state of Lebanon is part of an Israeli plan to cover up for the Egyptian-Israeli treaty. He added that Sa'd Haddad will meet the same end as all agents, large or small. He affirmed that the Lebanese Government and people are capable of terminating this agent. He also affirmed that it is essential to help the Lebanese state to restore its sovereignty over southern Lebanon and to impose this sovereignty over every inch of Lebanese territory.

Regarding the work and results of the Islamic states foreign ministers conference recently held in Fes, Khaddam said: The work of the conference was conducted both seriously and satisfactorily. One of its early results was the issuance of a resolution suspending Egypt's membership in the conference. This explains and affirms that the Egyptian-Israeli treaty and the Camp David policy are rejected, not only by the Arabs, but on the world level as well. This is due to the fact that the Islamic conference states constitute a large sector of world public opinion as well as a large force in the world.

Khaddam added that depriving As-Sadat of both Arab and Islamic support are two inevitable steps in overthrowing As-Sadat's regime, now that this regime has been exposed and now that the Egyptian Arab people's stand on As-Sadat's regime and policy has become clear.

Referring to the capitulatory treaty between the Egyptian regime and the Zionist enemy, Khaddam said: This treaty, as Syria has indicated, is one of the most serious stabs aimed at the Arab nation over the last 50 years. This is because the Egyptian regime's decision to leave the Arab-Israeli arena of struggle, to join the Israeli enemy's trench and to turn Egypt into a basis for Zionism, from which it can swoop down on the Arab homeland, Africa and the third world, is an extremely serious matter.

He added that with this treaty As-Sadat committed gross treason against the Arab nation in several ways. First, he drove Egypt out of the Arab nation. Second, he obstructed Egypt's capabilities in the Arab-Israeli arena of struggle, thus causing the balance in the region to tip in favor of the Israeli enemy. Third, he relinquished not only the Arab lands, but Palestine as well. He even announced that the West Bank and Gaza Strip are no one's territory, and that he is entitled to negotiate concerning them. This is a cancellation of the political and national character of the Palestinian people, whereby he put himself in the Palestinian Arab people's place in the struggle against the enemy and then subverted this struggle against the enemy by concluding peace with him.

Regarding the self-rule plot, Khaddam affirmed that by accepting this rule, As-Sadat is relinquishing the Palestinian Arab people's pan-Arab, historical and national rights. He added that stating that the autonomous administration will end up as a state is a mere attempt to delude Arab and world public opinion. Khaddam affirmed that by his acceptance of the Article VI of the treaty--whose provisions were unprecedented--As-Sadat betrayed the Arab nation and stabbed the Arab League Charter, the joint defense pact and all the Arab resolutions. He added that the Article VI not only abrogated Egypt's previous commitments, but also prevented Egypt from concluding any agreement that conflicts with this treaty's provisions.

Khaddam also said: The Egyptian Government has taken upon itself the task of establishing normal peaceful, economic, political and cultural relations with the Israeli enemy. This means that these relations are part of the nature and conditions of peace. Consequently, the Egyptian Government will never be able to introduce an economic measure that might harm the Israeli economy.

The deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs added that Egypt will not be able to prevent the opening of a Zionist embassy in its territories, because such an opening is one of the conditions of the treaty. Thus As-Sadat restricted Egypt's sovereignty and Egyptian decision-making ability in the economic, cultural, political and military fields--in fact, in all fields. Khaddam added: This means that Egypt is no longer an independent state, and that the rule in Egypt has become a sort of autonomous administration under the U.S.-Zionist umbrella.

Khaddam stressed that As-Sadat and the treaty will not live long. The treaty will end like the peace treaty signed by Marshal Petain with the Nazis during World War II. He said As-Sadat's destiny will be no better than that of Petain or of the shah of Iran.

PRESIDENT AL-ASAD RECEIVES GAZA MAYOR ASH-SHAWWA

JN191642 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 19 May 79 JN

[Text] Damascus, 19 May--President Hafiz al-Asad received the Mayor of Gaza, Rashad ash-Shawwa, at 1330 today. The meeting was attended by the Mayor of Al-Yarmuk refugee camp, Nur ad-din Mahmud.

They discussed the Palestinian question and hostile designs aimed at liquidating the Palestinian question through the Camp David accords and the Egyptian regime's capitulatory agreement with the enemy.

The president said that the self-rule plan the Egyptian regime intends to negotiate with the enemy is a plan Israel created to implement its own expansionist ends, seeking to liquidate the Palestinian cause by Arab hands and to give some legitimacy to its designs.

The president stressed the danger of becoming involved in cooperation with As-Sadat's regime and in following its capitulatory path, which is bound to lead to deadlock, because such a path is against the Arab nation's interests and goals and will be resisted by the Arab nation.

Rashad ash-Shawwa emphasized the importance of continuing and bolstering Arab steadfastness and resisting hostile schemes. He also stressed his rejection of the Camp David accords, their results and his rejection of the current negotiations between the Egyptian regime and Israel. He said: We hold to Palestinian and Arab rights in full. We uphold our commitment to the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of our Palestinian Arab people. Any discussion of the Palestinian question should be conducted with the PLO.

ALGERIA

ENERGY MINISTER ON NATURAL GAS SALES TO UNITED STATES

LD212052 Algiers APS in English 1520 GMT 21 May 79 LD

[Text] Algiers, 21/05/79 (APS)--Mr Belkacem Nebi, Central Committee member and energy and hydrocarbons minister, explained in an interview the results of Sonatrach and El Paso negotiations concerning the modification of l.n.g. (liquified natural gas) price that Algeria exports to the U.S.

He said that following 1979 accord, Algeria agreed to sell each year 10 billion cubic meters of liquified natural gas to the U.S., over 20 years and for the price of 35 cents for a million calorific units.

The price which was applied till beginning of 1979 was causing a loss to Algeria which interests were rather at not selling its gas than giving it a this price.

After Sonatrach-El Paso negotiations it was agreed: 1) that gas price would increase gradually, 2) to work out a new terminology to modify the sale price, 3) to reconsider conditions of the agreement after four years, 4) to set a temporary new price while awaiting consents of Algerian and U.S. authorities. In the light of this statement the minister concludes that Algeria lost since March 1978, 990 million dollars, and would have lost a million and a half dollars daily starting July 1979 if the price were maintained at its original index.

These modifications then allow to correct a harmful situation towards Algerian interests.

LIBYA

AT-TURAYKI MAKES PRESS STATEMENT ON MAGHREB, INTER-ARAB ISSUES

LD211215 Casablanca LE MATIN in French 11 May 79 p 8 LD

[Mustapha Sehim report: "The Fes Islamic Conference"]

[Excerpt] Yesterday work continued in plenary session and in committee. In addition, Libyan foreign minister made a statement to the press.

In fact, replying to questions put to him by representatives of the national press, the Libyan foreign minister made a number of statements.

Asked about Libya's attitude toward tension in the Maghreb, Dr at-Turayki stated that his country supports the UN and OAU resolutions, the meaning of which is perfectly clear in this respect.

Furthermore, he expressed his support for the appeal launched by his majesty the king in favor of complete autonomy for the Palestinians in their liberation struggle, free from any domination by any Arab state.

Asked about the attitude adopted by Sudan, which in the end decided not to vote for Egypt's exclusion from the Islamic conference, he emphasized that Sudan remains an Arab country, maintains solidarity with fraternal countries and is a supporter of the cause of Islamic solidarity.

As for the fate of Imam Musa as-Sadr, Dr at-Turayki stated that this matter no longer concerns his country.

"As we have officially stated," he said, "Imam as-Sadr left Libya for Italy several months ago. He has disappeared from that country. This matter no longer concerns Libya and it is up to Lebanon, of which the imam is a national, to initiate inquiries if necessary."

In conclusion the Libyan foreign minister expressed his support for the creation of a pan-Islamic military force. "A committee of experts," he stated, "met in London recently and adopted a number of proposals on the subject. In any case, I intend to submit this matter to the Islamic conference."

MAURITANIA

ALGIERS REPORTS DELEGATION TO MEET WITH POLISARIO FRONT

ID211044 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 21 May 79 ID

[Text] Following a recent emergency meeting, the Military Committee for National Recovery in Mauritania has decided to send a high-level delegation to Algeria to pursue talks with the POLISARIO Front over the Saharan problem.

MOROCCO

SAUDI KING KHALID CONTINUES OFFICIAL VISIT

20 May Talks

ID201620 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 May 79 ID

[Excerpts] Political talks between King Hassan and King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, king of Saudi Arabia, began in Fes today. King Khalid arrived in Fes yesterday afternoon on a cordial fraternal visit.

The Moroccan king this morning called at Al-Bahiyah Palace where King Khalid is staying and began talks with him. The talks are still in progress.

From the Saudi side, the meeting was attended by Defense Minister Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz; Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud Ibn Faysal; King Khalid's advisor Dr Rashad Fir'awn; Minister of Higher Education Hasan 'Abdallah al Ash-Shaykh; Minister of Communications Shaykh Husayn al-Mansur; chief of the royal cabinet Shaykh Muhammad an-Nuwaysir; Saudi ambassador in Rabat Shaykh Fakhri Shaykh al-Ard.

From the Moroccan side, the meeting was attended by Prime Minister and Minister of Justice Maata Bouabid; Minister of State in Charge of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Mohamed Boucetta, Minister of State in Charge of Cultural Affairs Hadj M'hamed Bahnini; Minister of National Education and Cadre Training Azzedine Laraki; Minister of Agricultural and Agrarian Reform Abdellatif Gissassi; as well as King Hassan's advisors: Ahmed and Idris Slaoui [as heard] and Ahmed Bensoudah and Moroccan ambassador in Jidda Mohamed Naciri.

The two monarchs will meet again this evening during a banquet which King Hassan will hold in honor of this brother King Khalid.

Talks Continue

ID211444 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 May 79 ID

[Summary] Moroccan-Saudi talks continued this morning in Fes. The talks centered on ways of strengthening bilateral relations and on coordinating the actions of the two countries regarding Arab and Islamic problems.

Saudi Defense Minister on Visit

ID211346 Rabat MAP in English 1205 GMT 21 May 79 ID

[Text] Rabat, May 21 (MAP)--In connection with the official visit that King Khalid of Saudi Arabia is actually undertaking to Morocco, Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Saudi minister of defense and aviation, rendered homage to the Moroccan people, their king and their government for the warm and brotherly welcome reserved to King Khalid.

In a declaration made in Fes to the envoy of the Saudi daily AN-NADWA, Prince Sultan underlined that the Saudi sovereign's visit to Morocco is the concrete proof and image of Arab and Islamic brotherhood and solidarity, adding that the Moroccan people has shown, as in the past, their attachment to Arabity and Islam, their efficient support to the propagation of God's word, and their will to make all necessary sacrifices for the liberation of holy places.

Dealing with the talks between the Moroccan and the Saudi sovereign and between the two countries' delegations, the Saudi minister indicated that they are related to questions of common interest, and to the Arab and Islamic cause, outlining that this last question is of much importance, taking into account the present circumstances, the attacks launched against the holy places of Islam, and the Zionist enemy's aggressions against the Arab nation.

"We attach a particular interest to these talks because of the role played by Morocco, which is guided by King Hassan II's wisdom and perspicacity, in defending Islam and in supporting the Palestinian struggle and the cause of Al-Qods," added the Saudi minister.

Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz concluded that Saudi Arabia will carry on efforts to put an end to the tension prevailing in north-west Africa, precisising that his country grants a particular attention to this question, being convinced that the duty of every Arab and Moslem is to work for the Arab nation's interest.

On the other hand, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Saudi minister of foreign affairs, declared to the Saudi press agency that the Moroccan and the Saudi sovereigns examined, during the talks they held Sunday morning, all the questions relative to the Moroccan-Saudi relations as well as to the situation prevailing in the Arab world.

Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal indicated that the two sovereigns' point of views were identical because the efforts they both undertake have the same target: to safeguard the interests of the Arab-Islamic nation.

OIL PRODUCTS MARKET REGISTERS 9 PERCENT GROWTH IN 1978

ID191418 Rabat MAP in French 1000 GMT 19 May 79 ID

[Text] Rabat--Moussa Saadi, minister of energy and mines, chaired a meeting of the board of directors of the National Oil Products Company [SNPP] at his ministry on 17 May.

It was attended by the other members of the board, representing the departments and organizations concerned.

The SNPP director general presented the board with a report of the company's activity for the 1978 financial year. This shows that the market for oil products grew by 9 percent compared with 1977. Thus, all-round consumption reached the equivalent of 3.6 million tons of crude oil. The increase was more marked in the case of products for industrial use, which went up 14 percent. Gasoline, on the other hand, only went up 1.6 percent and gas-oil 6.3 percent. This is explained on the one hand by Morocco's industrialization policy and, on the other, by the measures taken to save energy.

The country was properly supplied despite disruptions on the world oil market during the closing months of 1978.

Some 76.5 percent of requirements were covered by the national refineries. This proportion will rise considerably in 1979 with the entry into service of the new Samir installations.

The board reviewed the new 1979 investments, with particular reference to storage facilities: the capacity of these will be considerably increased, which will give the country greater security of supply.

Concerning the 1978 results, the board registered its satisfaction at the good results achieved by the national oil company and its subsidiaries and approved the 1978 accounts.

SUDAN

NUMAYRI INTERVIEWED ON ARAB UNITY, STRATEGY

JN181315 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1045 GMT 18 May 79 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 18 May--President Numayri has expressed pessimism over the possibility of achieving Arab solidarity under the current circumstances.

In an interview with the Sudanese newspaper AL-AYYAM to be published tomorrow, President Numayri said that the present Arab groupings cannot be a substitute for unified Arab action with the framework of a strategy for either peace or war. Therefore, it is conceivable that more than one Arab country will follow As-Sadat's course in the absence of a unified Arab strategy. Such a strategy would have insured the steadfastness of the confrontation states and determined the commitments and role of all Arab countries in the event of a military confrontation with Israel or in the event efforts for achieving a just and peaceful settlement were initiated.

President Numayri referred to the Arab boycott of Egypt. He said: This boycott does not constitute a positive substitute for achieving Arab objectives. The Sudanese president questioned the guarantees available to Syria and Jordan which would enable them to confront the big powers' military strategies and moves aimed at protecting the latter's interests at the expense of pan-Arab interests. Numayri said that under the current imbalance of power in the area, the confrontation countries cannot choose war. The only choice available to them is a separate agreement with Israel. This represents a real catastrophe for the present and future of the Arab nation.

President Numayri declared that Sudan has a clear concept of an Arab strategy which it would be willing to submit to any Arab meeting held at any level. Agreement on a unified Arab strategy is a crucial and vital Arab need. President Numayri said that he cannot reveal Sudan's concept of this strategy because he expects strong internal and external opposition to any attempt to formulate an Arab action strategy. The Sudanese president added: This strategy requires the readiness of all Arab countries to shoulder their responsibilities and accept all challenges and dangers which may ensue. It also requires that pan-Arab interests be placed above each Arab country's own interests. Confrontation with Israel within the framework of such a strategy should take into consideration all eventualities, and should be a steadfast and continued confrontation.

On the objectives of this strategy, President Numayri said that there are three objectives which allow for no showmanship: The liberation of the occupied Arab territories, the restoration of Jerusalem and the guarantee of the national rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to set up their state. He added that these objectives, to which Sudan is committed and which were unanimously approved at the Rabat and Algiers summits, must be adhered to. Efforts must be made to achieve these objectives within the framework of unified Arab efforts, he added.

President Numayri said: The desired strategy requires the drafting of a new role for the Arab League within a unified Arab action framework so as to remove all the negative factors which have prevented the Arab League from playing its required role during the past stage.

President Numayri concluded his press statement by saying that these negative factors result from the circumstances under which the Arab League was established. There was also Egypt's absolute leadership of Arab action in and outside the Arab League without any competition or any Arab desire to change this system. What is required now is for the Arab League to develop a collective Arab leadership with all Arab countries participating. This leadership must be provided with the necessary capabilities and jurisdiction to enable it to carry out its work.

On New Arab League

JN191448 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1415 GMT 19 May 79 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 19 May--President Numayri has told today's AL-AYYAM newspaper that he is against anything issued by the old Arab League. He called for the establishment of a more positive and effective organization to achieve the goals and to draft a clear strategy for their achievement. The president added that the transfer of the Arab League to Tunisia does not serve the cause and that the dissolution of the present Arab League and the establishment of a new organization would be much better than the transfer.

On 'African Military Force' Concept

JN191520 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1545 GMT 19 May 79 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 19 May--President Numayri has declared that the idea of establishing an African military force is a natural result of foreign forces' intervention in Africa. He said that those who raised the idea thought that the presence of such a force might prevent foreign intervention in Africa.

In replying to a question about the formation of an African military force, President Numayri said that there are several important questions to be raised about the institution of such a force. He asked: How will the formation of this force be handled? Which countries will participate in its formation? And who will command it militarily and lead it politically?

President Numayri added: Personally, it seems to me that this idea comes from outside Africa. However, the participants at the summit conference in Khartoum denied this.

In his statement to the Sudanese newspaper AL-AYYAM, published here today, President Numayri explained that in his capacity as OAU chairman he has not yet received the report on the formation of the African military force. However, he said that the news we have received indicates that the idea has been approved. In my view, this does not mean that the idea can be implemented easily, he added.

Concluding his statement on the formation of the force, President Numayri said: The idea will remain under consideration for a long time. It would take at least 10 years to implement if we began working seriously on it as of now. As a Sudanese, I believe that even if we implement the idea, the structure of the force will remain weak for a long time to come.

On Amendment to OAU Charter

JN191739 Khartoum SUNA in English 1725 GMT 19 May 79 JN

[Excerpt] Khartoum, May 19 (SUNA)--Sudanese President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri announced today in an interview with the Sudanese daily AL-AYYAM that his experience as chairman of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) convinced him of the importance of amending the OAU charter to be more flexible in facing its responsibilities.

He called for the establishment of an OAU emergency council to meet in a 48-hour time when necessary to deal with sudden problems. He also called for a definite African strategy for handling African and world problems.

The absence of that strategy, he said, made the OAU objectives difficult to obtain.

On Eritrea Relations With Ethiopia

JN191809 Khartoum SUNA in English 1750 GMT 19 May 79 JN

[Text] Khartoum, May 19 (SUNA)--Sudanese President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri said that Sudan advocates--out of his own experience--the self-rule for Eritreans as the optimum settlement to the Eritrean question.

In an interview published here today by the Sudanese daily AL-AYYAM Numayri said that Ethiopia declines to take any political movement toward the settlement of her domestic problem before attaining a military victory in Eritrea. Though he disapproved the possibility of either party attaining a military victory in the region, he believed in the possibility of a political one that would restore peace to the area with the help of the world community.

On the normalization of Sudanese-Ethiopian relations, he said that no progress was made since his summit with Colonel Mengistu last February in Freetown, Sierra Leone. While denying any enmity or expansionist ambitions against Ethiopia, he said that the Ethiopians suspect Sudan of aiding the Eritreans to operate inside Ethiopia.

CABINET ENDORSES BEGIN'S AUTONOMY PLAN

TA211431 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 21 May 79 TA

[Text] The Cabinet today endorsed the plan formulated by the prime minister in anticipation of the negotiations on autonomy in the territories. However, in the first stage, the plan will not be presented to the Egyptians and the Americans but will merely serve as a series of principles guiding the negotiating team.

Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports further that even though the defense minister and the foreign minister requested at the Cabinet meeting to be relieved from participating in the negotiations, they were persuaded to withdraw their requests. The team of six Cabinet members that will conduct the negotiations will be headed by Minister Yosef Burg. The vote on the prime minister's plan proceeded clause by clause.

The plan also includes two statements. One says that Israel will always be opposed to the establishment of a Palestinian state; the other says that after 5 years of self-administration, Israel will demand sovereignty over the territories of Judea, Samaria and Gaza.

The 11-minister committee which discussed principles for guiding the negotiations ceased functioning today. As of now, the Cabinet plenum will be guiding the ministerial team that conducts the negotiations.

Tomorrow, Burg will communicate to members of the Knesset Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee the principles that were endorsed by the Cabinet today. Dr Burg will do this instead of the prime minister, who is leaving for a visit to England tomorrow.

Composition of Negotiating Team Announced

TA211600 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 21 May 79 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Excerpt] The Israeli Cabinet today adopted the autonomy plan formulated by Prime Minister Menahem Begin. At the end of the Cabinet meeting, Cabinet Secretary Arye Na'or said:

[Begin recording] [Na'or] The Cabinet today ended its deliberations on the Israeli proposals in preparation for the beginning of the negotiations on the autonomy arrangements, which will open in the next few days. The Cabinet selected a team of six Cabinet members headed by the interior minister, a team which will include the defense minister, the foreign minister, the justice minister, the agriculture minister and Minister Nisim. They will be accompanied by the government's legal adviser by Maj Gen Avraham Tamir and by the legal adviser of the Foreign Ministry. This will constitute the Israeli delegation to the negotiations. The six-minister negotiating committee will from time to time appoint representatives for concrete discussions of one kind or another.

Most of the decisions adopted in the Cabinet today were adopted unanimously. Some were adopted by a majority vote, and two resolutions were adopted by a vote with four Cabinet members voting for a minority proposal and 11 or 12 members voting for the majority proposal. [end recording]

Further Details

TA211730 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 21 May 79 TA

[Text] The autonomy plan that was endorsed today by the Cabinet has 18 clauses and 2 statements. In the plan the Cabinet maintains that the source of authority of the self-administration in the territories will be, according to the Cabinet's conception, the military government. Against the opposition of four Cabinet members, the Cabinet approved the clauses which refer to Israeli control over public lands and water resources and to the right of Israel to settle in the territories and requisition and expropriate lands in the areas of the autonomy. The ministers who were opposed to those clauses were Moshe Dayan, 'Ezer Weizman, Yigal'el Yadin and Gid'on Pat.

Our political correspondent has learned that Ministers Dayan and Weizman do not intend to take part in all of the negotiations. Our correspondent was told that they had been persuaded for reasons of courtesy to appear at the first meeting of the ministerial committee.

The plan that was endorsed by the Cabinet today constitutes the Israeli proposal for the negotiations on the autonomy and, according to the Cabinet decision, it will be placed upon the negotiations table, at a suitable time.

HA'ARETZ PUBLISHES DETAILS FROM BEN-ELISAR AUTONOMY DOCUMENT

TA211054 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 21 May 79 pp 1, 2 TA

[Text] With the aim of preventing the area of the autonomy from turning into a Palestinian state and of protecting its security interests, Israel intends to maintain control over a large number of administrative spheres. It is recommended, among other things, that the self-administration not be permitted to levy taxes, establish radio and television stations, issue postage stamps and currency, control imports and exports and hold elections according to lists and platforms.

It is further held that the registration of land must remain in Israel's possession, that the self-administration's legal authority will not apply to Jewish inhabitants or visitors in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip and that the IDF will retain control of hundreds of thousands of dunams of training and firing areas and will influence the granting of construction permits along the edges of certain highways.

These recommendations are included in the report submitted by the committee headed by the director general of the prime minister's office, Dr E. Ben-Elisar. These recommendations are not detailed in Prime Minister Menahem Begin's program which, as is known, deals with the general aim and principles of each and every sphere, while the recommendations detail how matters will be implemented and how Israel's interests will be maintained in each of these spheres. With regard to the elections to the administrative council, for example, the recommendations state that the candidature of people who have been found guilty of hostile activity against Israel will be forbidden. Lists of candidates and platforms will form no part of the elections; instead, there will be personal elections, in which the branch of the administration for which the candidate is proposing himself is not specified.

Broad authority will remain in the hands of the IDF and the security forces. A list of these interests was determined after consultations with, among others, the commander of the central command and the coordinator of activities in the territories and with representatives of the general security forces and the Israeli police force. In this framework it was determined that after the IDF forces are redeployed in their camps, the IDF will have a set of fortifications and emergency stores in case of war. The IDF will continue to train in the territories and for this purpose wants to close off about 480,00 dunams which will be considered as nonfiring training grounds. These are areas which are not populated or cultivated. In addition to this, the IDF wants about another 2,000 dunams to complete the camps where the forces remaining in the territories will stay.

For the purpose of security control and movement to the border, Israel intends to construct more than 10 highways in Judea and Samaria and another highway in the Gaza Strip. This is in addition to bypass roads so that military traffic can bypass large population centers in Nabulus, Ramallah, Janin and so forth. The IDF will have full control of these and other traffic arteries, including the granting of licences to build the border stations and will be entitled to intervene in the administration in the event of grave breaches of the peace. A local administration policeman will be able to arrest an IDF soldier on a nonmilitary charge, but the soldier will be handed over to the IDF forces' command and the charges against him, whether criminal or civil, will only be submitted via the commander of the IDF forces.

As for internal security, it is determined that the general security service will have authority to decide on the carrying out of arrests and searches as well as the free approach to local institutions. The authority for investigations and claims on security issues will be in Israel's hands. Security prisoners will also be held in prisons under Israeli control, and Israel will have the right of veto over the granting of pardon to these prisoners. There is the possibility that the legal establishment judging security offenses will be mixed, Israeli and Arab.

The local police will have to hand over prisoners if it is asked to do so. The Israeli police will determine the arming and equipping of the local policemen and represent them in contacts with Interpol and foreign police forces. The Israeli police will give the local police aid on matters of criminal identification and so on. With regard to the Jewish settlements, it has been determined that a police force will be established from among the inhabitants. The Jewish inhabitants will be permitted to bear arms with licences in all the autonomy areas, not only within the settlements. Broad authority will also be granted to the Israeli Ministry of Communications, since Israel will retain control over the whole communications infrastructure in the territories. The reference is to control over transmission stations, relays and cables. Ministry of Communications employees will also operate and maintain the local communications system. The autonomy's administrative council will not be given control over electromagnetic space.

In the spheres of economy and finance, it is recommended that the autonomy self-administration not be permitted to issue currency or to maintain a central bank. Israel will supervise the transfer of funds from abroad and foreign currency.
[paragraph continues]

The self-administration will be able to levy indirect taxes such as [two lines apparently misprinted here] but will not be able to levy taxes. As opposed to this, income from the taxes will be transferred to the administration. Israel will maintain supervision over imports and exports and also over the traffic of visitors from Arab countries.

The recommendations state that Israel will supply the Gaza Strip with water, since it suffers from salination of its wells, but Israel must retain in its hands the planning for the use of the water and the supervision of this issue throughout all the areas of western Eretz Yisra'el. Other recommendations detail the possibilities as to how to continue to keep state lands in the territory areas through the person in charge of government property.

Abba Eban Comments

TA211207 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 21 May 79 p 8 TA

[By Yehudit Winkler]

[Text] If Egypt's isolation in the Arab world continues, the achievement of the peace treaty cannot be regarded as a sure thing, Mr Abba Eban said last night in his lecture at the Tel Aviv University in the framework of the project of analyzing the peace.

Eban believes that Egypt has not given up its central place in the Arab world. Although it was, in his view, to be expected that the other Arab countries would lag behind Egypt in the peace process, the strength and scope of the negative reaction are something of a surprise. It may be, Mr Eban said, that the peaceful relations between Israel and Egypt will have to be conducted separately and cut off from any similar move by other countries in the Arab world. This situation will confront Israeli policy with grave difficulties. At the least, a completely different approach will be required from Israel than that which has been expressed in Israeli policy since the prime minister's visit to Cairo, which represented the high point in the relations between the two countries.

In Eban's view, it would be a mistake to demand that Egypt accept definitions closing off any options for the Palestinians for independence in the future or definitions which do not fit in with the Camp David agreements. "Full autonomy does not mean empty autonomy," he said. Eban explained that when the Camp David agreements talk about the military government's withdrawal and replacement, this does not mean that the military government will retain full authority. In his view, President as-Sadat's demand to get encouragement and reinforcement by a considered Israeli policy is justified.

Eban said that against the prolonged background of enmity and wars the immediate mission is to bring the two nations closer in the psychological sphere. It is, in his opinion, desirable that the contacts at the first stage should be on the intellectual, political, academic and literary planes. "Israelis have become accustomed to not understanding the spirit and nature of the Egyptian nationality, so mutual spiritual acquaintance is no less important than the fulfillment of concrete steps."

Daniyel Bloch Article

TA211237 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 21 May 79 p 7 TA

[Daniyel Bloch article: "The Autonomy Document--for Internal Consumption"]

[Text] In the debates by the committee of 11 ministers on the prime minister's autonomy program, Defense Minister Ezer Weizman played his role of the boy in the "Emperor's New Clothes," when he dared to express, in his remarks and in his voting, what anyone with his wits about him had felt, including even some of the Cabinet ministers, that Menahem Begin's autonomy document is nothing but a castle in Spain which no Egyptian, U.S. or Palestinian element with any mind will be able to accept as even a basis for negotiations. Ezer Weizman, as is his wont, gave his view, which is not that of one individual, hard-hitting and sharp expression. Such other ministers as Moshe Dayan and Yigael Yadin expressed this more quietly. There is no doubt that at least Dayan knows that the Begin document is a well-tried recipe for freeze and failure, inviting a U.S. program and U.S. pressure whereby what will happen at the end of the process is what happened in the negotiations over the peace agreement with Egypt: Under U.S. pressure Israel achieved less than it could have done in direct negotiations with Egypt, had it not been for the intransigent opening positions of the prime minister and the unnecessary and provocative settlement actions of Agriculture Minister Ari'el Sharon.

There is a certain amount of justification in the claim that the idea of the autonomy permits the achievement of peace between Israel and Egypt, because it has permitted both sides to reach a reasonable compromise without, at this stage, conceding sacred principles and ideological views. But the autonomy idea is no more than a postponement of the decision on the future of the territories for several more years. This postponement has a certain value, since it will permit the advancement of the normalization in the relations between Israel and Egypt and maybe even convince additional Arab elements to join in the normalization process with Israel. The only possibility of obtaining such a desirable period of transition is if the autonomy program is not regarded as an Israeli strategy to arrive at an annexation of the territories. But if the prime minister's autonomy program includes the continuation of complete Israeli control over the land and water in the territories and the unrestricted right to settle and if to this is added an Israeli declaration that at the end of 5 years Israel will demand sovereignty over all of the territories, then this is a well-tried recipe for failure. Can any informed Israeli imagine that President as-Sadat will agree to such a document, even as a basis for bargaining, without being called, justifiably so in this case, a traitor to the Arab cause?

The impression has been created that Menahem Begin's autonomy document was intended first and foremost for internal consumption: in preparation for the Herut congress, to soften the NRP's anger to calm down Arik Sharon. But this was a statement that caused the negotiations with Egypt to be prolonged for an entirely superfluous year. This is because the conditions under which As-Sadat is now working are worse than they were a year ago, the pressures to which he is subject are several times greater and the most serious danger can be foreseen: During the negotiations on the autonomy the momentum of the peace process will become lost for good.

It may be assumed that over the first 9 months of the negotiations there will be no breakdown, until As-Sadat gets the Al-'Arish-Ra's Muhammad line. But afterward he is certainly capable of suspending the advance toward normalization until he gets an agreement to his satisfaction on the matter of the foundation of the autonomy, and this with the aid and support of the Americans. And let us not make any mistake and believe that as the election season in the United States draws nearer, U.S. pressure on us will lessen. The pressure will not lessen, because the United States will give preference to its support for As-Sadat's regime over any other consideration, and the majority of the U.S. Jewish electors will not necessarily support unexplainable and illogical Israeli intransigence.

Every informed person understands that the autonomy is, at best, a program for a transitional period and cannot serve as a permanent solution in the long term. Only an approach of partition of territory between the Jewish and Arab states, with security arrangements for Israel, has any chance of lasting. This is because annexation is impossible, not only from the aspects of demography and of international pressures, but also from the moral aspect of control over another people which does not want this rule. The settlement by Gush Sharon-Emunim in Samaria is wrong from the moral aspect, because it brings with it expulsion in practice of another people and settlement within areas populated by Arabs (note the Gush Emunim behavior in Hebron and the weakness of the government and the IDF). Begin's autonomy program can in practice only lead to a solution of a Palestinian state as a third state and, according to his program, no real force will be able to stop this in the course of time. Even countries stronger than Israel could not stand up to national pressure which has not been given any independent expression.

The only realistic solution is two states between the Mediterranean and the Iraqi wilderness, acting in cooperation and with security arrangements suitable for Israel in the region of the Jordan Rift valley, which will have in them demilitarization arrangements, supervision and early warning at strategic points in the West Bank. Settlement in Samaria adds nothing to Israel's security and does not create any pioneering value, because in any case all the "settlers" make their daily living within the Green Line spheres. The autonomy document by the prime minister and some of the members of the ministerial committee is nothing but an exercise of self-delusion and fraud.

The prime minister is also deluding himself and others if he thinks that the Supreme Court's judgment on the matter of the requisitioning of land in Bet-El is a blank check justifying any settlement and requisitioning in the territories. Anyone who studied the judgment will easily distinguish that the honorable judges decided on a concrete case and decided that there was indeed an element in it of security consideration. But the precedent set requires proof in each and every case that requisitioning of land is indeed required for security purposes and not for the creation of a historic or mystic right of Gush Emunim. Begin will save himself excess baggage if he does not take with him to the meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance in London the Supreme Court decision and other legal opinions. He can be very sure that the Americans have already read the judgment very closely and their legal advisers have already analyzed it and drawn the clear and unambiguous conclusion that permanent civilian settlement in the administered territories is illegal from the aspect of international law and pure logic. Thus, at best, it is nothing more than a temporary phenomenon which must be open to debate during the negotiations on the autonomy or on the permanent settlement. A demand for the freezing of settlement is without any doubt legitimate in negotiations, no less than the intransigent and extremist positions of Begin and his supporters.

Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman is worthy of full support for his courageous stand against the dangers of the prime minister's autonomy document. It is to be hoped that, in contrast to what has happened in the past, other ministers who also see those dangers will not conceal their positions or hope that the U.S. squire will do their work. It is to be hoped that 'Ezer Weizman will not surrender to the pressures which will be put on him from the right and from certain opponents in the Herut to resign from the government because he is opposed to the prime minister's views. 'Ezer Weizman must remain in his place and lead the fight for conciliation and wisdom as he did during the negotiations with Egypt. And although the road is filled with gambles and obstacles, difficulties and disappointments, Weizman's objective is to win, as has happened in the past.

BEGIN REMARKS ON JERUSALEM AT TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY CEREMONY

TA220600 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 22 May 79 TA

[From the Morning Newsreel]

[Text] At a ceremony to receive an honorary PhD from Tel Aviv University, the prime minister reacted to remarks by Hasan Tuhami, Egyptian vice prime minister, regarding the Muslim march to the rescue of Jerusalem. The last thing I want to do is to bewilder President as-Sadat, whose civilian courage stands in opposition to the waves of hatred on the part of the Arab world. However, why are you bewildering me? Begin asked Egypt.

[Begin recording] [Begin] If, for example, the Egyptian vice prime minister, Mr Tuhami, announces twice that he will organize a march of a million Muslims in order--as he puts it--to liberate Jerusalem between the walls and East Jerusalem, I ask: Why you are bewildering me? What? A million Muslims? And you, the vice prime minister of Egypt, which has just now signed a peace treaty with Israel, will organize a march of a million Muslims? Can you see them yet? [mockingly] They are walking, they are marching on, they are already getting inside the walls--a million Muslims:

Dear Mr Tuhami, we have known each other for nearly 2 years. A march--a million--Muslims--this has not been, nor created, nor even told as a fable. Jerusalem will stand forever, the eternal city, Israel's capital, a reunified and indivisible city, a city that was reunified and will never be divided again. [end recording]

[Announcer] The prime minister added that a Palestinian state will never be established in Judaea and Samaria.

Further Details

TA220638 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 2230 GMT 21 May 79 TA

[Report on Prime Minister Menahem Begin's 21 May Speech at Tel Aviv University]

[Excerpt] Praising the autonomy, Begin said that this is a noble idea which will enable both Jews and Arabs to live together in one country without any borders within it.

Begin emphasized that this will be a full autonomy; the residents will run it without any intervention on our part. However, if we do not take care of security, Eretz Yisra'el will be turned into a second Lebanon. Lebanon was ruined because of the terrorist organizations which receive arms, equipment and ammunition from the Soviet Union, which does not hesitate to help these murderers' organizations.

Begin attacked the terrorist organizations, noting that these murderers' organizations make the civilian population a target of their attacks. There has never been such a base organization, although it is still called by some a liberation organization. How can anyone demand that we agree to become a second Lebanon? It should be known that without our help the Christian population of Lebanon would have been annihilated. As much as it seems unbelievable, a small Jewish state is the one that rescued the Christians in Lebanon while big Christian nations have not lifted a finger and have not done a thing.

As for the so-called Palestinian state, the prime minister stressed that foreigners call our country "Palestine" but its real name is Eretz Yisra'el. "To those Egyptians who do not bewilder me I shall say: "A Palestinian state will never be set up in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip."

Begin concluded his speech by pointing out that we and the Arabs will live together in honor, freedom and progress. Is it possible that the great Arab people whom we respect and who have 22 states will have a 23d Arab state that will jeopardize Israel? Nobody will accept this thesis [word in English] and the French and British foreign ministries in addition to the U.S. State Department had better consider this matter.

PREPARATIONS UNDERWAY FOR AL-'ARISH TRANSFER, AS-SADAT VISIT

TA211018 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 21 May 79 TA

[Text] The director general of the prime minister's office and Begin's military secretary will leave for Cairo tomorrow to complete the preparations for the meeting between President as-Sadat and Prime Minister Begin in Al-'Arish on Sunday.

It has been reported from Al-'Arish that the joint committee might continue its deliberations tomorrow as well, if it does not finalize things today. The committee's meeting this morning was to be the last prior to the transfer of Al-'Arish to Egypt.

Our correspondent, Aharon Barne'a, reports that cars and banners belonging to the large Egyptian contracting company owned by 'Osman Ahmad 'Osman, President as-Sadat's son-in-law, could be seen in the town today for the first time.

The owner of the Al-'Arish as-Salaam Hotel has sent an invitation to President as-Sadat, asking him to stay over in his hotel during his visit in the town.

So far, it has not yet been clarified whether As-Sadat will arrive in Al-'Arish aboard his yacht or by plane.

The Israeli military government will give hundreds of its local workers a farewell memento: a large color photograph of Carter, As-Sadat and Begin during the peace treaty signing ceremony.

As-Sadat To Arrive by Plane

TA211117 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 21 May 79 TA

[Text] President as-Sadat has ruled out his original plan to arrive in Al-'Arish aboard a yacht. Rather, he will arrive by plane and will land at the Al-'Arish airfield. Also, it seems that As-Sadat's visit to Al-'Arish will only take place on Sunday, and not on Saturday as had been the original plan.

Egyptian officials who arrived in Al-'Arish today reported these changes but provided no explanations. They said, nevertheless, that the changes were not final.

Our military correspondent, Roni Daniyel, reports that the working meeting of the joint committee for Al-'Arish began several minutes ago.

Much activity can be felt in the town in preparation for the ceremonies.

Employment Problem Noted

TA181300 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 May 79 p 1 TA

[By 'Amos Hadad]

[Excerpt] The Egyptians will not allow the continued employment in Israel of about 5,000 Al-'Arish workers and will avoid, as much as possible, cooperation with Israel after Al-'Arish's handover to them. This is the impression obtained in the talks between the Israeli and Egyptian representatives in Al-'Arish.

The Egyptians did not say clearly that they will not permit these workers' employment in Israel, but stated that there will be no normalization between Israel and Egypt before the lapse of 9 months after the handover, and that until then no change will occur regarding Al-'Arish. Besides, it is being suggested to the Al-'Arish residents to make plans for providing themselves with new employment as of 26 May, after the town is returned to Egypt.

In the talks they held with the local administration workers, some of whom will continue to be employed by the Egyptian Government, Egyptian representatives said that one of the first problems that should be tackled is the problem of finding employment for the thousands of workers employed in Israel. The tendency observed in the talks has reached the workers themselves and they are both worried and bitter. "In Israel we made 6,000 to 8,000 Israeli pounds per month and now, in Al-'Arish we are offered work at a salary of 60 to 80 Egyptian pounds (1,800 to 2,400 Israeli pounds). It is impossible to live on such sums. We will have to settle for bread and tea or ask for governmental support," the workers say.

Officially Egypt is supposed to give its final answer regarding the continued employment of Al-'Arish workers in Israel next Monday. On that day the answer regarding the continued purchase of fish by Israelis from the Sabkhat al-Bardawil fishermen will also be given.

The telephone connection between Al-'Arish and Israel is still working, but the Egyptians hinted it will be disconnected on 25 May, after the town is handed over to them. Yesterday the Egyptian Signal Corp soldiers were busy installing the telephone connection between Al-'Arish and Cairo and Ismailia. This will first serve the journalists on the day of As-Sadat's arrival in Al-'Arish and will later constitute the regular telephone service with Egypt.

ISRAELI MILITARY DENY CROSSING LEBANESE BORDER

NC211137 Paris AFP in English 1117 GMT 21 May 79 NC

[Text] Tel Aviv, May 21 (AFP)--Israeli military circles today denied reports that Israeli military vehicles had crossed north into Lebanon and taken up positions east and south of the village of Shab'a, in the eastern frontier sector.

Reports from Beirut that about 20 Israeli vehicles had crossed the frontier were completely without foundation, the circles said.

WEIZMAN REJECTS CABINET COMMITTEE DECISION ON SETTLEMENTS

TA211742 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 21 May 79 TA

[Text] Our political correspondent, Shim'on Schiffer, has learned that the defense minister refuses to sign a requisition order for 800 dunams in the area of Nabulus for the purpose of setting up an urban settlement there. This had already been decided upon by the ministerial committee for security affairs. Minister Weizman wishes to appeal the decision at a plenary Cabinet session. Our political correspondent notes that the subject will in fact be raised at one of the forthcoming Cabinet sessions.

It will be recalled that the ministerial committee for security affairs decided before the Pesah holidays to establish two settlements in Judaea and Samaria: one in the area of Nabulus and the other a permanent settlement for the Shilo settlers in Samaria.

Moves Against Nabulus Land Stopped

TA220645 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 22 May 79 TA

[Text] The government legal adviser has instructed that all proceedings intended to seize a 800-dunam area near Nabulus be stopped until the chief of staff signs an order stating that this area is needed for security reasons. The order was issued after a check carried out by the office of the government legal adviser indicated that the land is private, mostly uncultivated and some of it rocky.

Our correspondent has reported that the 800 dunams were slated for the establishment of an urban settlement as decided on at the time by the ministerial committee for security affairs. Defense Minister Ezer Weizman refused to sign the requisition order for this land and is appealing the ministerial committee's decision on the matter. In his opinion the decision is a surrender to a Gush Emunim show of force. Weizman believes that if the area is an important security location, a security installation should be erected there. Our correspondent adds that the defense minister is adhering to his belief that the existing settlements in Judaea and Samaria should be fleshed out.

MILITARY GOVERNMENT OFFERS TO BUY JA'ABARA LAND

TA211845 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 21 May 79 TA

[Text] The military government offered 95,000 Israeli pounds for their land of the Ja'abara hill landowners in Hebron. Our correspondent, Phinhas Inbari, says the Supreme Court decision, which says that no work may be done at the site before the court hands down its decision in the conflict between the landowners and the government, remains in effect.

A hotel, a suburb of villas and public buildings are planned for the site. The work was first delayed because Israel did not wish to damage vineyards on the hill. Later, it was delayed due to the hearing in the Supreme Court of Justice.

The Defense Ministry does not regard the Ja'abara hill as a security area, unless the Cabinet decides to classify it as such. The area is now closed off by order of the military administration.

MAPAM LEADER PROTESTS POLICY IN HEBRON

TA201814 Tel Aviv ITEM in Hebrew 1600 GMT 20 May 79 TA

[Text] Mr Me'ir Talmi (Alinement--MAPAM) today submitted an urgent motion for the Knesset agenda to debate the situation in Hebron which, in his view, has degenerated because of the government's policy. In his explanation Talmi said that it had been stated on the radio and in the press that people from Qiryat Arba' had gone to homes of Hebron inhabitants and informed them that their homes belonged to Jews and they would have to evacuate them. This is also what happened in the clinic in the town while patients were being received, until the doctors alerted the security forces. The activity of the security forces does not change the fact that the behavior of people from Qiryat Arba' is inciting hatred. They are apparently encouraged by the fact that an investigation is still being made into who uprooted the vines and also by the government's reactions to the matter of the Hadassah building.

Therefore, Talmi is demanding an urgent debate in the Knesset to put an end, in time, to an increasing worsening of matters.

KNESSET REJECTS NO-CONFIDENCE MOTIONS ON ECONOMY

TA211820 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 21 May 79 TA

[Text] With the votes of 52 coalition Knesset members, the Knesset this evening rejected three no-confidence motions in the Cabinet that had been submitted by the Alinement, Shay and Hadash because of the economic situation. Forty-four opposition members voted against the government. Knesset member Shamir, who left the Likud, voted against the government. Absent from the coalition benches during the vote were MK Ge'ula Kohen and La'am Knesset members Yitzhaq Peretz, Zalman Shoval and Yiga'el Horovitz. The La'am faction members absented themselves demonstratively in accordance with a decision by institutions of the La'am movement. They explained that the institutions of their movement were opposed to the way in which the economic policy was being carried out and demanded clarifications from the Cabinet members. Since they failed to receive those clarifications, they decided not to take part in the vote.

TERRORIST VEHICLES CONFISCATED, ESCALATION IN ACTIVITIES FEARED

TA212002 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 21 May 79 TA

[Text] The IDF spokesman reported that several days ago Israeli Navy vessels detained a freighter bearing suspicious looking equipment. A search of the ship Naxos revealed 27 Hanimog vehicles which were intended for military use by the terrorist organizations. The vehicles are manufactured by the Mercedes Benz Company in Germany. The terrorists construct armored cabins on top of these vehicles, thereby transforming them into armored cars. A small turret quipped with a medium machinegun or a 20 millimeter cannon can be placed on the roof of the armored cars.

The IDF spokesman reported that the vehicles were confiscated and the ship, which was flying the flag of a Latin American country, would be released together with its crew. The IDF spokesman also notes in his report that recently collected information indicates that the terrorists are preparing for action with wide-ranging military formations.

FOREIGN MINISTER INTERVIEWED ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

LD211846 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1120 GMT 21 May 79 LD

[Interview of Iranian Foreign Minister Dr Ebrahim Yazdi given "this morning" in Tehran to radio correspondent Ne'mat Ghafurian--recorded]

[Text] [Question] Dr Yazdi, as the foreign minister of Iran, could you comment on the reaction of the Iranian Government to the U.S. Senate resolution, and its provocation and threats against Iran and the Iranian nation? Do you regard this as very serious?

[Answer] As you know, we made known the Iranian Government's view in a statement issued by the Foreign Ministry yesterday. According to this statement, we regard the U.S. Senate resolution as a direct intervention in our country's internal affairs and, of course, we have very forcefully and strongly (?protested), and we will resist and oppose any form of intervention in our internal affairs by any power.

[Question] Should these provocations continue, will you react more rigorously?

[Answer] We hope this resolution does not represent a general, all-round policy of the U.S. Government, and we hope that there will be no need for rigorous measures. For ours is a peace-loving nation, desirous of friendly relations with all nations and our desire and our revolution are directed towards the preservation of our country's independence and the preservation of our own national interests. Undoubtedly, the American people understand this, for the American people have themselves carried out a revolution to free themselves from the sway of British colonialism. They are familiar with the desire of our nation and the aim of our national revolution--independence. For this reason, we hope that no such circumstance will emerge, and the world will understand what we are saying--that we wish only to be independent, and determine our own destiny. Whatever that may be--bad, good, large or small--it will be our own doing. This is something the world understands and the American people know. We hope that the provocations and conspiracies of a minor group which interfere in such affairs will not cause the general policy of the U.S. Government to adhere to the [word indistinct] aims and interests of this group.

[Question] The interests of U.S. imperialism, which has very strong roots especially in the countries of the Third World and in our own country, have been endangered. Various groups, such as the oil cartels, the Zionists, the industrialists and the military industries have been harmed as a result of our revolution. Could you comment on which of these groups are behind these provocations?

[Answer] Those groups which have been harmed more than most. I believe that these groups have all been harmed. Some damage can be compensated or made good in other respects. Such damage is not decisive. But some of the blows they received because of the victory of our revolution are not very small, and are decisive. (?Moreover), Israel is the biggest loser from our revolution in this region. This party has incurred a bigger loss than any other group.

Under the former shah, Iran was one of the major Israeli bases. Information, documents and data that are at our disposal at present show how close the shah's relations with Israeli were.

Some of the projects that the Israelis had in Iran have now been set aside, resulting in unemployment for hundreds, even thousands of Israeli staff, workers and experts inside Israel itself. They had housing projects, for example: They used to build the entire structure of a house in Israel and then bring it to be erected in Iran. All of these projects--both military and economic--have been dismantled.

In addition, Iran was a strong political bulwark for Israel. Israel has lost this bulwark and is seeing the effect of this revolution in other Islamic countries and in other countries of the Third World. This is what we call the change, or effect of the Iranian revolution on the political geography of the region.

As you know Israel rigorously exerted its power in Egypt enabling it to bring the Egyptian Government into a major political balance, and regulated and signed a treacherous agreement with As-Sadat. But the effect of our revolution has found its way into Egypt, and the revolutionary spirit has found its way among the Egyptian people. The inspiration that the Egyptian people derive from this revolution is (?undeniable). It is not our wish to interfere in the internal situation in Egypt. This is the effect that our revolution has had in the entire Islamic world including Egypt, and the Egyptian people see that they are no less worthy than the Iranian people; they have this same Islam, and they see that they are faced with similar condition, and see how in Iran, our nation defeated the (?largest) regional power emptyhanded, through reliance on the power of God and without relying on any [word indistinct] superpower. This effect is not something that we can prevent, or that the Egyptian people will not see or not understand. In fact, the people of Egypt are also taking steps in this same way, and we beseech God for their victory.

In short, Israel has reached agreement with the As-Sadat government; in the final analysis, the agreement looks useless. Disruption of the situation in Egypt is tantamount to a collapse of all the plans that Israel had [word indistinct].

Therefore, the Israeli Government is truly concerned, as it should be. But when there is a wrong course violating the will of God, it will accomplish nothing, no matter how much power it may possess. In my belief, all provocations have been caused by the Zionists and the Israelis; they are on the losing side, as is anyone moving against the course of history, as is anyone moving against the pleasure of God, or the right path, even for 20, 30, 40 or 50 years. Falsehood cannot endure. Reza Pahlavi was in this country 58 years. One or 2 years ago, no one would have imagined even a chance in a billion that the Pahlavi order would be buried in the trash heap of history with such speed.

[Question] You mentioned the existence of data and evidence about the Zionists. How much evidence have you at your disposal, and why do you not tell the world about it?

[Answer] These documents are all scattered, because the past regime did not want them used. With regard to some of the issues, when I came to the Foreign Ministry as foreign minister, I had the right and duty to consider these documents. I commissioned a team to study all the confidential documents, some concerning relations between the shah and Begin, and some on relations between Iran and Israel and about meetings and talks that they have held. We will gradually collect these and will analyze and consider them, and you can be sure that we will not hide anything from the nation. As soon as this team prepares its reports, we shall put them at the people's disposal.

[Question] You are aware that the Zionists have a profound influence in U.S. society, especially in its governmental and media systems. If they put pressure on the United States, on the U.S. Government, and if there are economic and military threats against Iran, how will Iran react to these threats, especially as we have some economic dependence on them--for foodstuffs, for instance?

[Answer] It is true that the Zionists have a great influence in the United States, especially in the U.S. Senate. But, as God says, those who live in disbelief, even though they appear to live in glory, live in disgrace. In the same way all the power of the United States is not in the hands of the Zionists. We should know that it is not quite as if they can do what they want. For instance, in the case of the Soviet Union, although the Jews, the U.S. Zionists, made a great fuss about some of the policies of the Soviet Government concerning the Jewish minority, and wanted to influence U.S. foreign policy on this basis and prevent the sale or the sending of wheat to the Soviet Union, they were not successful in this instance.

I don't think the Zionists in the United States will be able to control all U.S. policies. We also know that there are some differences between the executive and legislative branches of the U.S. Government. For this reason, the passing of the resolution by the U.S. Senate does not mean that the executive branch of the U.S. Government shares its view.

[Question] What do you (?think) of the initiator of this resolution, Jacob Javits?

[Answer] Well, it is clear. Jacob Javits is a famous Zionist. For a time his wife received vast sums as the publicity consultant of the National Iranian Airline. It caused a great deal of fuss in the States itself, so much so that Jacob Javits claimed that at that time she had not been his wife, as they had separated. Later, he said: I have returned all the money and have canceled the contract--or some such speech. But, in any case, in the United States no senator can decide everything, nor [words indistinct] can decide everything.

The question should not be approached in the following way--because the Zionists find the execution of a counterrevolutionary criminal in Iran, such as Mr Elqanian, as an excuse to attack us, therefore this is the policy of all sectors in the United States. No, political pragmatism and analysis shows that it is not like that, and that there are some contradictions among the American people. The American people would not tolerate a tiny minority to determine their foreign policy. The American people have principles of their own. The American people want friendly relations with all other nations in the world. The ties and the friendship between the Iranian nation and the American nation, between the Iranian people and the American people, is deep, and no one group can destroy all these ties.

[Question] You have offered no answer concerning military matters. Will the United States threaten us, or not?

[Answer] No, the political condition in Iran and the victory of our revolution and the situation of the region--the geopolitical position of the region--is such that the United States will never be in a position to have such aims.

[Question] What about their maneuvers? What are their maneuvers in the Indian Ocean and the Persian Gulf for?

[Answer] I don't think their maneuvers are related to events in Iran.

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] The maneuvers are not directly related to events in Iran.

[Question] Let us return to our earlier question. If these provocations continue, is there any possibility of breaking off relations with the United States?

[Answer] Everything is possible. But we hope that these provocations will not continue, because as we have frequently said, and as his holiness the imam has frequently mentioned in his newspaper interviews, we want the friendship of all nations and all countries. We are not basically against any nation or any country. Our opposition will be against the policies or actions of a particular country or government. We hope that as reflected in the letter of the U.S. secretary of state to us expressing the wish not to interfere with our country and its policies, and the wish to establish economic and cultural relations upon new foundations--we hope to act on this new basis, which should definitely be based on mutual friendship, mutual respect and respect for our sovereignty.

[Question] One instance that the U.S. Senate has emphasized and on which it based its resolution, is the recent decision of the Islamic revolutionary courts on the execution of the deposed shah and the rest of his clique. Could you say whether their position in this respect is valid, is official, or is it a sort of editorial comment?

[Answer] I do not know precisely on the basis of what evidence or report the U.S. Senate adopted this position. I do know that they based their position on the views and the speech reported in the Iranian newspapers as being made by the president of the revolutionary courts. Yesterday, at the Revolutionary Council meeting, I asked about this, and the Revolutionary Council denies that Mr Khalkhali is the president of the revolutionary courts. It is, therefore, a cause of great regret that the U.S. Senate adopted a position without a careful study of the issues.

[Question] Yes, let me ask my last question, which concerns our own compatriots. We have heard that there are about 120,000 Iranians in the United States. Recently, the Iranians have been badly treated. And Iranians in foreign countries who go to U.S. embassies on various issues face a bad reaction, or bad treatment. Is the minister of foreign affairs going to react towards this kind of behavior by the Americans?

[Answer] As to the condition of Iranians in the United States--it is not the first time they have been badly treated. Even at the time of the former shah, we witnessed the bad treatment of our Iranian students in the United States by U.S. officials, and since accepting responsibility for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, I have received reports saying that some of our Iranian students have been jailed there, or that they are still being bothered.

We have two solutions. One is to act through our embassy in Washington--and I have emphatically ordered it to defend the rights and benefits of our students, and to support and help those students in Kentucky and California who have court records to solve their difficulties. There are some difficulties which our students have faced or are still facing. It does not concern only the students, but all Iranians there. These are due to the evil propaganda which is carried out against our movement in that country, in order to condemn our movement and to confuse the minds of the American people about our movement. These difficulties should be solved in a wider context with the help of all Iranians who are there through proper publicity and the presentation of the originality of this movement to the American people in order to nullify the effects of those activities.

KHOMEYNI DISCUSSES NEED TO SAFEGUARD REVOLUTION

LD220904 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 21 May 79 LD

[Text] His great eminence the ayatollah, Imam Khomeyni, leader of the Iranian Islamic revolution, at a meeting with the students of Tehran University law school stressed the need to devote attention to fundamental and basic issues and to refrain from attention to secondary and minor issues which at times even lead to differences.

In the course of the meeting with the students Imam Khomeyni stated: We currently have a group of topical fundamental issues and a group of secondary issues which should be raised after the resolution of the fundamental issues. If we raise the secondary issues at this time we may lose sight of the fundamental issues which are the heart of the matter, or else the movement may be defeated if we raise these secondary issues which at times lead to certain differences. Therefore what comes to mind is that what helped us succeed in this movement concerned two things: one of them is the foundation and the second one is that which was realized thanks to its link with that foundation. The foundation was based on the people's entering the arena in the name of Islam, faith and belief, and because there was in Islam and faith all the strata of Iranian nation united with one another. Because the real secret of success and unity of direction and course were realized we advanced as far as we did and achieved something everyone regarded as impossible to achieve in Iran.

Addressing the students of the law school, Imam Khomeyni added: The secret of success lay in the fact that the people were unified and cried together: We do not want this corrupt regime; we want an Islamic republic. And this led to the achievement of something that the world had regarded as impossible, namely, to see that nothing triumphs over everything. Of course, this is viewed from the materialistic standpoint. But, on account of spirituality and attention to almighty God and faith, the nation has advanced and defeated satanical powers.

Imam Khomeyni also said: At the moment those who wish to extinguish the movement are going into the factories and talking to those who know nothing of these matters. Well, what has happened now then? At the same time they are going into the countryside and preventing farmers from doing their work and engaging in harmful propaganda, whereas if work is done and agriculture is made successful the future programs will be achieved sooner. That is why they do not want tranquility to be brought about in Iran or to see anything done. When no work is done and nothing is done for the people there will be disturbances, and when there are disturbances they will achieve their objective. And those who have assigned these people to do such things will achieve their objective as well.

Referring to the plots hatched by the enemies of the revolution, Imam Khomeyni said: We are at the moment halfway down the road and have not reached the destination yet. If one of the objectives was to cut off the hands of thieves and plunderers this has already been achieved to some extent. They carted away and pocketed the nation's property and ran away. But we have cut off their hands, and, God willing, we shall get back what they have taken away. What we have done so far has been to remove the obstacles; we removed the obstacles to human, national and natural development. But not all the obstacles have been removed yet. There are certain individuals still left behind who engage in sedition and try, with whatever cunning possible, to create differences.

But the main point is that the country is in our own hands. The country must become self-sufficient, and, therefore, we should begin to build a country with a proper economy, proper agriculture, proper universities and a proper system of justice. And if all these sectors are from the era of Satan and have not been changed it is because the government is a transitional government and it is not an established government. Thus what is incumbent upon us is to devote all our attention to safeguarding the movement.

GOVERNORS GENERAL CONCLUDE 6-DAY MEETING

Meeting With Khomeyni

LD211444 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 May 79 LD

[Text] Yesterday evening the governors general, accompanied by the minister of the interior, were received by the imam and discussed the problems and difficulties which were raised in the conference of the governors general. In this meeting the minister of the interior explained the demands of the governors general in three parts.

Concerning the committees the interior minister said: The governors general regard the existence of the committees as necessary, because under the present conditions the committees can better act for the preservation of order and the following up of the problems associated with the previous regime. But, on the other hand, due to a lack of coordination among committee members and also a lack of principles and guidelines upon which they can act, they make difficulties for the governors general and, in some cases, they create many problems.

Concerning agricultural problems the interior minister said: As the imam has said, the farmers should work harder than in previous years in order to increase the agricultural yield. Of course, they have really done so, and throughout the country the agricultural yield is very good, but as could also be seen during previous years they do not have sufficient manpower for crop harvesting. Therefore, in this regard, we came to this conclusion that it would be helpful if the imam would issue an order concerning three issues.

First, all of the working force--young people and all those people able to work--should be asked to help the farmers so that they can harvest their crop. All the owners of agricultural machinery should also be urged at this particular time to help the farmers so that they can make use of these machines, either by the payment of a smaller rental or that the owners of the agricultural machinery place their equipment free of charge at the disposal of the farmers.

Those people who have sown seeds and have planted are in many cases being disturbed by other farmers, because they believe that these lands have been previously owned by their ancestors and have been taken from them by force by the previous regime, and in some cases they cause difficulties for no reason at all. For example, in the north of the country we face such problems as regards tea and citrus fruits. Our demand is that in such cases, according to the rule of the crop belongs to the farmer, you issue orders that for the time being they should stop causing disruption so that their disagreements might be solved later through the Ministry of Justice and other channels.

The third problem concerns narcotics, especially opium whose cultivation has increased and become abundant. This is a crop which is not in the farmers' economic interest to place at the disposal of the government, and they will certainly sell it on the open market. As a result, a great deal of opium will become available to consumers and, thus consumption will increase. If the imam were to decide to ban the use of narcotics it would be very useful. The governors general believe this edict would be very useful, and many drug addicts would get rid of their addiction.

In reply the imam Khomeyni said: The committees are in essence a fortress for the country, and it was through them that we were able to destroy that great dyke and they enjoy our support. But their purge is absolutely necessary, and I am sorry that in some instances these committees are not as useful as they should be but are, on the contrary, harmful. However, this does not mean that we should get rid of these committees. Apart from the army, we need these national soldiers and the national guards for the country. Thus we should improve the committees, and it is up to the members of the religious seminary, the Revolutionary Council and you gentlemen to provide projects, and by sending delegates to various parts of the country to improve and purge the committees.

As regards agriculture, one of its difficulties is the existence of some corrupt people who do not like to see that agriculture comes to fruition. Just yesterday some people came here and were saying that our agriculture is very good and useful, but the corrupt people and the troublemakers have destroyed the bridge that we have to cross to reach the lands which we have cultivated, so that we are now unable to reach the cultivated land.

Now, the government should think and find a way of cleansing the regions from these corrupt people, because one cannot improve such people through advice. They have come to cause mischief and their work is to do corruption. We need force to deal with them, and the government has the power. It is up to the gendarmerie and the army to do these things. The army and the gendarmerie should be strengthened and sent to these regions.

The imam said: It has been proposed to us that for a few months the army together with the guards should go to the border areas, set up camps and guard the area so that the corrupt elements cannot misuse the opportunity and continue their corruption. Of course, we also believe that this should be done, and we should vigorously prevent the mischiefmakers so that they cannot strike root. If we want to act through the official channels, complete dossiers and go through paperwork, the work will remain undone. The army and the gendarmerie should act decisively and prevent corruption and mischiefmaking. This matter is more important than agriculture. These troublemakers are nothing at the moment, but if we give them time they will later cause difficulty for us. Thus the solution of this problem is mainly the responsibility of the army and the gendarmerie. These people who attack people's property and products and prevent the work of the farmers--and it is not certain that their claims are valid--should be strongly restrained at the moment, and later we can refer to the appropriate channels so that the truth or falsehood of their claims might be established. Now, no one has the right to prevent the work of the farmers. The army and the gendarmerie should prevent such actions.

Briefly, those who sow corruption should be confronted with force, since advice has no effect. The imam emphasized that the pious people in the bazaar could be guided by advice, the revered farmers who are gently pursuing their work could be guided through advice, but these people who have as their mission to cause disturbance and create chaos and whose thesis is that Iran should not be calm so that they can say that we cannot rule the country and need a custodian, should be prevented by absolute force. It is thus the responsibility of the government to act as soon as possible.

As regards agricultural machinery, if it needs our recommendation, we are prepared to recommend to the owners of such machinery that they provide some facilities.

Now for narcotics, including opium and heroin. As regards heroin, which has unfortunately become widespread, we should prevent its use by force. You should give orders to the officials to arrest these people, put them in prison and try them, and destroy the narcotics. But as regards opium, which has been cultivated a great deal in the country, the government should buy this crop from them at a reasonable price. If the government buys it at the usual price from them, they do not need to sell it on the black market, especially since selling it on the black market means danger and loss for them. The government should thus allocate some funds for this purpose. Of course, the owners of opium ought to be willing to sell their crop at a lower price to the government so that in return they will be free from the loss and the danger of selling it on the black market. We should also advise them in this respect.

Resolution Issued

ID212106 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 21 May 79 ID

[Excerpts] The conference of the country's governors general, which convened on 15 May at the invitation of Mr Ahmad Sa'at Haj-Seyyed-Javadi, the interior minister, to exchange views and raise and solve problems of various parts of the country, ended its work today by issuing a resolution stressing such matters as unemployment, agriculture, mining and industry, housing and urban development, developmental projects, police and the gendarmerie, narcotics, municipalities, revolution committees, general disarmament and purges.

The resolution recommends that the necessary credit allocations to start up special regional projects which are still incomplete and the development projects of the current year should be entrusted to the governors general for decisionmaking on the type of project and the manner in which it is to be implemented.

With regard to agricultural questions, the resolution of the conference of the governors general recommends that effective steps toward improving the agricultural situation will be taken if prices of agricultural products are stabilized, particularly those for foodstuffs needed by the general public, if agricultural produce is insured against natural hazards and causes, and if the bureaucratic regulations governing loan-advancing organizations are revised by the government.

With regard to the question of purges, the governors general in their resolution call for the cleansing and purging of government agencies by committees operating under the supervision of the governors general. The resolution of the governors general says that the necessary credits should be placed at the disposal of municipalities as soon as possible, that the government should declare its policy with regard to the collection of appropriate levies aimed at making the municipalities self-sufficient and the special credits should be placed at the disposal of the governors general to administer such organizations until an established government takes over from the current provisional government.

With regard to industries, the conference's recommendation to the government concerns allocation of the necessary credits to provide the raw materials needed by plants, financial aid to industry, drawing up regulations governing the resumption of operations in factories, utilization of enterprises confiscated and placed at the disposal of the foundation for the lowly, and revision of the Mines Exploitation Act in line with exigences of the revolution.

The resolution of the governors general also stresses and reaffirms the need for a general disarmament and for the formation and strengthening of the corps of revolution guardians. It further says that the necessary measures should be adopted with regard to the determination of the scope of activity and authority of revolutionary committees until they are dissolved.

With regard to radio and television and the country's press, the resolution of the country's governors general demands the observation of impartiality in the publication of news and of social, economic and developmental news reports, and demands refraining from any personal interference, assessment and connection in the publication of news reports. In order to meet regional demands and needs, the resolution stresses the need for handing over the administration of radio and television in each province to a board of trustees composed of representatives of the people under the supervision of the governors general. The governors general note that since advancement of the objectives of the Iranian Islamic Republic is based on free guidance, understanding and intellect, this is an extremely sensitive and necessary matter.

MAHABAD IMAM DISCUSSES KURDS WITH KHOMEYNI

LD201818 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 May 79 LD

[Text] Ezzeddin Hoseyni, the Mahabad congregational imam, after his meeting with Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the Iranian Islamic revolution, stated at a press conference that at his meeting he demanded the vindication of the rights of the Kurdish people from the Imam. He added: Iranian Kurds have no contact with the Iraqi Kurds; they have always been the guardians of the borders of the State of Iran and they will continue to do this.

KHOMEYNI ENVOY VISITS NAQADEH TO INVESTIGATE DISPUTE

LD211558 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 May 79 LD

[Text] According to a report by our correspondent, Ayatollah Rabbani Shirazi, Imam Khomeyni's envoy, who had been on a tour of West Azarbayjan, arrived in Naqadeh this morning. At a town gathering he said: The existing superficial disputes among the people of this region can be easily resolved in a spirit of fraternity, tolerance and faith, under the leadership of the movement.

Our Azarbayjani Turks and Kurds have lived for many years side by side in peace. This fact demonstrates that the unpleasant and plot-ridden incident in Naqadeh was imposed on the people of the area against their wishes.

A Naqadeh Kurdish representative, expressing his regret about the recent incidents in the town, said that divisive elements as well as the enemies of Islam wish to disrupt the peace of the region by sowing discord. However, the Kurds are fully aware of the situation and will not be deceived by such treacherous plots.

After the talks with the Naqadeh representatives, Ayatollah Rabbani visited the city cemetery and paid tribute to the martyrs of the town's freedom.

NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FRONT DENOUNCES PRESS CENSORSHIP

LD201550 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 20 May 79 LD

[Excerpts] Thousands of people of Tehran gathered yesterday afternoon at Sharif Vaqefi University [university renamed since the revolution] to mark the 100th anniversary of the birth of Dr Mohammad Mossadeq, Iran's national prime minister.

One of Mossadeq's friends, Dr Shayegan, said: I never thought there would come a day when I would be marking Mossadeq's birthday with you, dear friends. He added: Today, our nation is glittering like a jewel in the world. It is not enough to commemorate Mossadeq's ideals for independence, freedom and for studying society.

Referring to clashes of ideas and tolerating opposing views, Shayegan called on the people to unite against imperialism and in defense of freedom, adding: Division between people would weaken the revolution, and the weakening of the revolution would lead to a return to dictatorship and reaction. The participants, stressing the need for freedom of the press and the fight against repression, condemned the pressure on the press. Iranian Islamic radio and television was also accused of broadcasting prejudicial reports in a message carried by some political groups they denounced censorship and repression. The participants chanted slogans such as: Reaction is doomed, revolution is victorious. In conclusion, a message by the National Democratic Front in defense of freedom of the press, and denouncing repression and censorship, was read out.

TEHRAN ANNOUNCES DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

LD201551 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 May 79 LD

[Text] In order to save electricity the Council of Ministers approved a proposal by the minister of energy to put clocks forward by 1 hour from 26 May. Clocks will go back 1 hour on 23 September.

FREE WATER, ELECTRICITY SCHEME FOR POOR TO BE REVISED

LD212050 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1530 GMT 21 May 79 LD

[Text] The minister of energy has said that power blackouts will be made public in accordance with a schedule worked out. The minister of energy stressed that the scheme to make water and electricity free of charge for the poor was a hasty move and that since many problems have arisen as a result of the scheme, it would be revised soon.

GOVERNMENT TO NATIONALIZE VACANT LOTS IN CITIES

LD191902 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 May 79 LD

[Text] Private ownership is to be abolished with regard to vacant lots in cities; the government will gradually own vacant lots and will eventually nationalize them. In this way, after a certain period of time, the government will put this land at the disposal of applicants who want to obtain land for construction or other use. The law to this effect was passed by the government and is going through its final stages of ratification at the Revolutionary Council.

25 MAY TO BE DAY OF PROTEST AGAINST U.S. SENATE

LD202236 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1715 GMT 20 May 79 LD

[From the press review on the Mujahidin Khalq statement in ETTELA'AT]

[Text] The Mujahidin Khalq have declared 25 May as a day of protest against the U.S. Senate. In a statement published in ETTELA'AT the Mujahidin Khalq said: The Iranian Mujahidin Khalq learned with extreme pleasure and pride about the condemnation of Iran by the U.S. Senate, a condemnation that was proposed by a well-known Zionist senator in the wake of the recent revolutionary executions in Iran and which was approved by others. Moments before that, we heard the valuable and realistic statements of Imam Khomeyni who many times called U.S. imperialism the true enemy of our people, an enemy which mourns more than anyone else the downfall of the dictatorship of the traitor shah and the execution of some of his collaborators in Iran. During its period of domination over our deprived people, U.S. imperialism did not shrink from torture and crime; and if it wins again, as it has shown in Vietnam, Indonesia [as heard] and other parts of the world, it would not care about the massacre of millions of people. They are the same people who did not notice when the best sons of this heroic people were losing their lives in torture-houses and [word indistinct] squares and did not say anything about humanity and human rights.

The Iranian Mujahidin Khalq who are ready in the future, as they were in the past, for all forms of sacrifice under the auspicious leadership of the imam in the course of the anti-imperialist revolution, declare Friday, 25 May, which is the martyrdom day of the founders of this organization, as a day of protest against the U.S. Senate, and requests all the heroic Iranian people to hold appropriate assemblies on this day. It does not consider marches and demonstrations to be appropriate because 25 May coincides with school and university exams.

Astara, Shiraz People Protest

LD211830 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 21 May 79 LD

[Text] The border inhabitants of Astara have condemned the nonsensical utterances made by the bloodthirsty U.S. imperialists. The target of the protest was the unwarranted statements and the propaganda war launched by the U.S. Senate, the Zionists headquarters, and world imperialism concerning the method of implementing sentences issued by Islamic Revolutionary courts in Iran, as well as the unnecessary presence of the imperialists' warships in the Persian Gulf.

This evening, thousands of Astara Muslims and fighters, assembled and listened to speeches at the town's congregational mosque condemning the propaganda war launched by the U.S. Senate. They then went on a march along the streets of Astara to condemn the actions taken by world imperialism and Zionism. While reaffirming the practices by Islamic courts, the group set the U.S. flag on fire in order to express their aversion.

The inhabitants of Shiraz took a similar measure today and strongly protested the unwarranted interference by the U.S. Senate in the internal affairs of our country. The various groups of people of Shiraz went on a march in protest against the interference by the lackeys of Zionism in the U.S. Senate. During the march they condemned U.S. interference in the internal affairs of Iran; this they demonstrated through the various signs they carried against the lethargy and slow operations of the Fars revolutionary courts.

Have we forgotten the massacres, murders and injuries inflicted upon the innocent people of Fars? We demand more activities by Fars courts and trials of the executioners and plunderers of the former regime.

We consider the proposal made by the (?great) struggler Ayatollah Taleqani, and the decree issued by the imam concerning the creation of town and provincial councils as a basic step toward handing over the people's future to themselves. The revolutionary step taken by the provisional government with regard to the nationalization of arid plots within cities is the first step toward realizing the fundamental precepts of Islamic economy.

In another gathering by thousands of people held at Tabriz University this morning, Hadi Ghaffari, son of the martyred struggler Ayatollah Ghaffair, in a speech condemned U.S. policies as well as those of Zionist forces in Iran. Afterward, the participants went on a march on the university campus and, while chanting anti-U.S. slogans, issued a resolution in which they expressed their support for measures taken by the revolutionary government and the execution of the collaborators of the former regime.

Protest in Esfahan

LD191722 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 May 79 LD

[Text] A number of pupils, university students and people of Esfahan this afternoon after taking part in a march assembled in front of the U.S. Consulate in this city and expressed their support for the sentences of the Islamic revolutionary courts concerning criminals. This group also condemned the interference of U.S. imperialism in the internal affairs of Iran and in the sentences of the Islamic revolutionary courts of Iran and, once again, expressed their support for the leader of the Islamic revolution of Iran, Imam Khomeyni.

Tehran Comments

LD202106 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 May 79 LD

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] A genuine revolution has a direction: it favors one group against another. It has friends and it has enemies. Our glorious and momentous revolution is no exception to this general rule. The friends of our revolution are identifiable and they include all the sections of the nation whose pure blood and self-sacrifice brought about a revolution in the interest of the people, particularly those deemed weak.

However, who are the enemies of our revolution? The enemies of our revolution are those whose illegitimate interests have been harmed, namely, Eastern and Western imperialists, above all U.S. imperialism and its internal associates, lackeys of the previous regime and hirelings of foreigners. The barbaric and plundering U.S. imperialism, which had a colossal stake in our country and which put the shah in charge of us to protect this colossal stake, is now understandably the enemy of our revolution since it has lost its interests and sees other interests endangered. It has spare no effort in showing its enmity toward us and it has not missed a single moment to plot and engage in intrigues against us.

U.S. imperialism has embarked on a covert war against us and against our revolution, a war with many dimensions, a war which has also acquired fresh dimensions with the progress of the revolution. The threat of military force is one aspect of this war. Since the victory of the revolution the U.S. fleet has been constantly present in the waters of the Persian Gulf and in the waters close to Iran and it has been showing up its teeth and claws. The Pentagon bosses are issuing dark threats against us.

Another dimension of this covert war concerns the propaganda war which the imperialists have waged against us through their press which we know is chiefly the monopoly of Zionists. The focus of this hostile propaganda is, for the time being, concerned with the revolutionary courts and the verdicts issued by them. And it is now the turn of the U.S. Senate to stage a circus and shed crocodile tears for human rights in Iran and for those who have been executed, and the turn of Senator Jacob Javits, this notable Zionist, to also act as a ringleader and to cry himself hoarse. It was reported in the news that the U.S. Senate denounced the verdicts of revolutionary courts in Iran and expressed aversion to and regret at these verdicts.

This pleases us and we regard it as an indication of the genuine nature and correct direction of our revolution to see that our actions displease the U.S. Senate, this organized criminal headquarters of U.S. imperialism. The U.S. Senate, at the same session spoke about endangering Iranian-U.S. relations, imagining, from its own standpoint, that it is threatening us. What a threat! Would a relationship which has resulted for us in nothing but dependence, poverty, abjectness, injustice and oppression be a threat to us if it were broken off? How well has our leader and eloquent voice of our people described the oppressed Iranian people's aspiration and demand when he asked: What is the use of relations with the United States to us? Our relations with the United States are those between an oppressor and the oppressed, a plunderer and the plundered. To get rid of enslaving military, economic and political dependence on the United States is one of the chief objectives of our revolution.

Gentlemen senators, sweet dreams! It seems you are still unaware that the situation has completely changed and that there has been a revolution. With what are you threatening us? We know very well that defending those convicted by revolutionary courts and raising the issue of human rights are a mere pretext because a regime and system which has plunged the entire world, from East to West, into fire and bloodshed and misery in order to protect its interests should not really be too upset by the destruction of a few of its servants. Gentlemen senators, smoke is still rising from the ruins of Palestine and Lebanon; the wounds on the bodies of Vietnamese children have not healed yet; the heartrending cries of freedom-loving strugglers have not yet ceased reverberating in the aryamehri torture chambers; the color of the blood of thousands of our martyrs has not yet been wiped off the walls on our country's city streets; and there are still countless millions of people constantly hungry in various parts of the globe. Do not the peoples of the world see in all these crimes the filthy hands of U.S. imperialism, this international criminal? It is truly ludicrous and revolting! Whom are you trying to fool?

FARS GENERAL PROSECUTOR INSISTS ON DISSOLUTION OF COMMITTEES

LD210940 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 21 May 79 LD

[Text] Yesterday afternoon a meeting was held with the general prosecutor of the Islamic Revolutionary Court of the Province of Fars and four delegates sent from the Revolutionary Guards Corps from Tehran and a number of judges, clergy and the local dignitaries. At this meeting the continuation of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards corps of Shiraz was discussed. The meeting discussed the purging of the Shiraz guards, the complete dissolution of all the committees, the expulsion of all the undesirable people and the expulsion of all the members of the committee of the reception palace.

In accordance with the decision of the participants at this meeting, the employment of members of the Revolutionary Guards corps of Shiraz is henceforth to be approved by three members of the clergy and local dignitaries. At this meeting, the general prosecutor of the Islamic revolution of Fars Province said that he will continue his duties only if all the committee are dissolved and the unsuitable people purged.

POLICE CHIEF ASKS PUBLIC TO COLLECT WEAPONS IN ILAM

LD211540 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 21 May 79 LD

[Text] Maj Naser Afqarzadeh, the head of the Ilam police station, while commenting yesterday morning on the difficulties faced by the police station asked the people of Ilam to collect privately-owned weapons until the program of general disarmament is carried out throughout the country.

He proposed that the people of Ilam elect a provisional council to collect the weapons. If it is necessary that some weapons be kept by the people, permits could be issued by the security departments under the supervision of the council. Major Afqarzadeh added that if this project is carried out, the Provisional Council for Disarmament can give the collected weapons to the police station and appoint one of its own representatives to cooperate with the police station to protect the weapons. The name of the owners of the weapons could also be registered so that decisions concerning them could be made at a later date.

Major Afqarzadeh said that the police department is the executive arm of the courts and according to existing regulations the police should carry out the verdicts passed by the courts as soon as possible. Unfortunately, because some people have been uncooperative, verdicts have still not been carried out.

TEHRAN COURT CALLS FOR EVIDENCE AGAINST 30 SUBJECTS

LD211558 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 May 79 LD

[Text] The Islamic Revolutionary Court of the central province of Tehran has published the names of 30 agents of the Pahlavi's hated regime and calls on compatriots to present any document or evidence they have against these people to the Islamic revolutionary court at Qasr Prison. The names of the individuals are as follows:

Sheykh Zeynol 'Abedin Ansari Sereshti, son of Sheykh 'Ali, head of official notary public;

Mostafa Rahimzadeh Kho'i, son of Zeynol 'Abedin, former Majlis deputy;

Retired Lt Gen Reza Tabataba'i Vakili;
Habibollah Eshraqi, son of Taqi, former managing director of Red Lion and Sun Society;
Dr Sheykhoh Eslamzadeh, former health minister;
Parviz Fathi, son of Asadollah, an NIOC employee;
'Ali Reza Me'marnia, director general of Rezaiyeh tobacco department;
Mehdi Qasemi, a royal court collaborator;
'Ali Iqani, son of Musa, managing director of Baluchestan Development Company and a collaborator of Hozhabr Yazdani [Baha'i businessman];
Parviz A'yan, son of Ahmad, an associate of Hozabar Yazdani;
Jamshid Firuzian, son of 'Ali Gol, an associate of Hozabar Yazdani;
Parviz Yazdani, son of Badi'ollah, a relation and associate of Hozhabr Yazdani;
Badi'ollah Yazdani, son of Reza Goli, a relation and associate of Hozhabr Yazdani;
Asghar Dafateri Moqaddam, son of Hoseyn, former governor of Garmsar;
Sa'id Mohammadi Dashti, son of Aqa Bek, former Majlis deputy;
Seyyed Mohammad Hoseyn Ma'sumi, son of 'Ala'eddin, former royal court employee;
Sirus Farmanfarmanian, son of 'Abdol Hoseyn, contractor;
Mohammad Safi Asfia, son of Salim, former minister of state;
Farrokh Rahmdel, an employee of former imperial organization;
'Ali Naqi Farmanfarmanian, former managing director of industrial credit bank;
Farnad Nikukhah, adviser to information minister;
Sheykh Mohammad Nava'i, head of the Marriage Bureau and an employee of Owqaf;
Reza Mo'aven, leader of demonstrators in support of the constitution;
Keyhan Keyvanfar, son of Farajollah;
Ebrahim Kamrava, son of Ebrahim;
Behzad Qa'edi Baredi, son of Qoli;
Parviz Badpa, son of Seyfollah;
'Ali Jamshidi, Ardeshtir Jamshidi and Asghar Kamrani, known as 'Asghar Khownak'.

ISLAMIC GUARDS ARREST ARMED FACTION IN BANDAR 'ABBAS

LD201355 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 May 79 LD

[Text] Acting on information that a number of armed men on 18 May had taken up positions on the southern heights overlooking Bandar 'Abbas in order to open fire on others, the headquarters of Bandar 'Abbas Islamic Revolutionary guards dispatched a number of its members to the scene. The guards arrested some of the armed individuals and handed them over to be sent to jail.

After necessary investigations, some of the arrested were freed on bail, and the rest are being interrogated.

ESFAHAN COURT ORDERS FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR PRISONER'S FAMILY

LD210958 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 May 79 LD

[Text] At the hearing by the Islamic Revolutionary Court of Esfahan of the case against Mas'ud Yazdani, police station major and former director of Esfahan prison, the accused was sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment in Shiraz, 100 lashes and discharge from government service for the crime of savage treatment which occurred during the time he was in charge of the prison. It was stipulated that 1,500 tomans monthly be paid to assist his family.

TUDEH PARTY LEADER DEVELOPS IDEAS CONCERNING FUTURE

DW181120 Duesseldorf UNSERE ZEIT in German 21 Apr 79 p 4 DW

["Exclusive interview with First Secretary of the Tudeh Party Central Committee Nuroddin Kianuri, date and place of interview not stated, although front page introduction of interview is datelined Duesseldorf and says that Kianuri had returned to Iran "just a few days ago"]

[Text] UZ: Each day shows anew that the revolution in Iran is not marking time. To the extent that it is possible to state this at this time, what does the Tudeh Party consider the most important results of the revolutionary transformation to date?

Nuroddin Kianuri: I think that when the revolution started four goals were discernible on which the participating forces were agreed. This was, first of all, the overthrow of the shah regime; second, it was the elimination of the imperialist rule in Iran by the guarantee of national independence; third, the enforcement of democratic people's rights in a very far-reaching sense, and fourth, a profound improvement in the living conditions of all working people.

The revolution has partly or wholly achieved these goals, and what now matters is to wage the struggle to the end. The achievements already attained by struggle must be safeguarded and those that are farther-reaching must yet be enforced. This means that the revolution must be continued in the interest of the consolidation of national independence, the strengthening of the democratic transformations, and the improvement in the situation of the working classes.

If you ask me what specifically has been attained: The shah regime has been overthrown, the republic has been proclaimed. The old state apparatus in part has been smashed. Three of the most important pillars of exercising imperialist power in Iran have toppled: The army, which for the time being is paralyzed as an important instrument of power and oppression; furthermore, the approximately 40,000 U.S. advisers who worked in Iran as the prolonged arm of Washington in general and the CIA in particular and who had to leave the country, apart from a group of agents that had gone underground; finally the Anglo-U.S.-Netherlands mineral oil consortium which is exploiting the natural wealth of our country--the mineral oil--and which has now ceased to exist.

Last but not least, the achievements of the revolution include Iran's resignation from the CENTO Pact. Iran has joined the circle of nonaligned states, thereby ceasing to be one of the imperialist bastions against the socialist countries and simultaneously the Middle East gendarme against national liberation movements. These are achievements which wield weight not only for Iran itself and for the Middle East but have a worldwide effect.

UZ: In our country the bourgeois press and television like to play up internal conflicts such as the controversy over the rights of national, non-Persian ethnic groups like Kurds and Turkmenians. What is the attitude of the Tudeh Party toward these problems?

Nuroddin Kianuri: In view of the great changes by the Iranian revolution which have a worldwide effect in favor of the position of the anti-imperialist forces, we are not surprised that the followers of imperialism particularly like to concentrate on questions which are suited to divert attention from the main issues. This is the hangover of imperialism which had to take heavy blows and losses in Iran.

The brutal, terrible power apparatus of the secret police SAVAK with its methods of torture for decades suffocated any stirring of national autonomy. Now the contradictions are surfacing which had been held under the surface by great pressure for decades. These contradictions are completely natural, and one of them is the problem of the national ethnic groups living in Iran.

After all, Iran is a multinational country. Apart from the Persian-speaking parts of the population, Azerbaijanis, Kurds, Arab-speaking ethnic groups, Baluchis, and Turkmenians are living in our country. These, please note, do not involve "minorities" but national groups which number millions. So far they have not had any national rights.

So far the Tudeh Party has been the only party which openly advocated in Iran the national rights of all nationalities within the framework of the Iranian uniform state. Now we are seeing chances that this point of our program will come close to implementation. On the part of the Iranian revolutionary forces, for example, we also see readiness to put an end to the national oppression of the non-Persian nationalities practiced so far.

UZ: So in this question, too, all signs are pointing toward progress, whereas the reactionary press in our country does not cease to philosophize whether the revolution in Iran does not make the country fall back into the "Middle Ages...."

Nuroddin Kianuri: Just as in any revolution there are, of course, highly different trends. Naturally the elements of reaction, especially the CIA agents and the SAVAK people working underground, seek to exert a disorienting influence on the revolutionary forces. They try to infiltrate and to provoke extremist reactions and excesses among the groups involved, especially on the rightwing, but also on the leftwing.

Naturally there are also some rightwing forces which like to exploit the revolution for their own ends. But measured by the development level of the revolutionary movement attained, I deem it absolutely impossible to throw Iran back into the Middle Ages. One may be confident that all difficulties, impediments, and possible setbacks notwithstanding, the Iranian revolution will stay on a progressive course. This, at any rate, is what the Tudeh Party is fighting for with all its forces, this is what all progressive forces are fighting for, among the many patriots fighting under the banner of Islam.

UZ: And how does the Tudeh Party assess the prospects of the antidictatorial alliance which so far has supported the revolution?

Nuroddin Kianuri: After the overthrow of the shah, after the first anti-imperialist changes and the initial measures for insuring the liberal rights for the people, each class and stratum naturally begins to try to imprint its own, specific interests on the revolution. The liberal bourgeoisie, for example, declares the revolution concluded and wishes the "normal" everyday life to prevail again, especially in the plants, without any farther-reaching changes.

The people, however, object to this. New proportions of forces and alliance relationships begin to develop. The progressive forces which extend far into the religious camp have begun to raise demands of their own. Thus a new front is taking shape which is working toward the consolidation and strengthening of the revolutionary achievements.

After all, one must not overlook the changes in the awareness which have taken place in the course of the popular struggles.

The working people learned through their own experience about their own power, and they developed a new revolutionary self-confidence based on this experience. These people will not accept being simply sent home according to the motto: "You have done your obligation, you can go now," and look on what others are doing with the revolutionary achievements. The poor peasants particularly are pressing for their share in the achievements of the revolution, since they have little land or no land at all and because they need soil urgently. It means that the class fight is gaining profile.

Thus the unity front of the powers aimed against reaction is getting new accents. A united people's front for deepening revolutionary achievements to the benefit of the working classes is a real possibility. In doing this we do not miss the fact that there are traditional anticommunist reservations and tendencies which have been active for many years. They complicate bringing about such a rapprochement oriented at the joint interests of the working people.

Characteristic in this connection is the fact that Maoist groups are closely cooperating with counterrevolutionary forces. When the Israeli Embassy in Tehran was occupied, the revolutionary forces obtained documents showing how closely the shah's "security service" was cooperating with the intelligence services of Israel and China. Iranian Maoists had infiltrated the ranks of the revolutionaries, passing on information to the Chinese. The Chinese side informed the Israelis, and they passed on their "realizations" to SAVAK. Revolutionary fighters cooperating with the PLO in such a way were turned over to the shah's butchers. This demonstrates how deep the Maoist groups are stuck in the swamp of treason.

UZ: What does the Tudeh Party in the present phase consider the most urgent task to improve the situation of the working people?

Nouroddin Kianuri: Our proposal for a people's front program contains next to the demand for strengthening and making irreversible anti-imperialist and antidemocratic achievements also demands for the rights of the working class and the working people in towns and in the country. The situation of these millions of people who have been particularly exploited in the past, still is very difficult today. According to their own admission, the Americans made a profit of \$3.00 from every dollar they invested in Iran. That is a rate of 300 percent, a top achievement with regard to exploitation. Exploitation was similar by the domestic Iranian big bourgeoisie that was closely linked to the imperialist monopoly rule.

We are in favor of an uncurtailed coalition right of the workers. We want their organizations to get a codetermination right in all spheres of production and distribution. Democracy cannot be just a matter of throwing scraps of paper every 4 years into the ballot boxes. It presupposes decisions and a share in making these decisions in the most important sphere of life--in the work process.

We demand that the peasants eventually should get enough soil. Big semifeudal estates, particularly the soil of followers of the shah, should be confiscated and distributed among small peasants and those who have no land at all. Poor peasants need government credits without interest and every possible help for setting up cooperatives, giving them chances to find forms of engaging in a joint economy. I believe that our demands find a positive echo among other parts of the revolutionary movement, also among the Muslim forces allied with the people. We are trying on this basis to find a common line with them.

UZ: Our paper disclosed that in the Federal Republic counterrevolutionary Iranian military are being trained by the Bundeswehr.

Many other things, too, indicate that reaction is not asleep in the country...

Nuroddin Kianuri: The revolution must fight down its enemies. No revolution can win that shrinks back from fighting down its enemies. The Iran revolution is faced by strong reactionary forces. Some 8,000 SAVAK people have gone underground and they are agitating against the revolution. They are prepared to apply all means. The CIA has about 200 agents who are camouflaged and active in the country. They are murdering, engaging in arson, they start provocations, and they are trying everything that is suitable to destabilize the situation, to create conflicts in the revolutionary movement, and to break apart the front of progressive democratic forces.

Naturally they also hope to get a foothold in the army, to get into influential positions or to keep and use them for a counterrevolution. It is, therefore, a supreme commandment to be revolutionarily vigilant and to equip the revolutionary vigilance of the people with the necessary material power. The most important thing to defend the achieved successes naturally is and remains the entity of the revolutionary strength itself. That is alpha and omega, and this principle dominates the action of the Tudeh Party everywhere and at any time.

UZ: Naturally there are not just enemies of the revolution who work from within...

Noureddin Kianuri: Imperialism nowhere in the world abandoned political terrain without resistance and without self-defense. The Chilean example particularly shows that it will commit any crime to regain lost territory. But the Iranian people is fully aware that times have gone when the imperialists could act freely in the world. The victoriously advancing power of the people--in the middle of which stands the socialist community of states--is growing irresistibly, stopping the machinations of the imperialists with a bolt that is growing always stronger.

It is the more important for us that there are friends, powerful friends, outside our borders, friends who support our fight. These friends are the entire peace-loving mankind, the community of socialist countries, and all anti-imperialist movements. It is no coincidence that such close fraternal relations exist between the Iranian revolution and the Palestine Liberation Front. The Iranian people has reason enough to hold in esteem the help of revolutionary forces everywhere in the world and to support these forces.

I would like to take the opportunity here to thank the DKP [FRG Communist Party]--also in the name of all my party friends--for having fully supported in our party and the democrats of our country all the time in their severe fight. And we thank most cordially for it and we are certain that our fraternal relations will further deepen. I am particularly greeting the readers of "UZ" which is one of the world papers we enjoy most.

LE MONDE: TWO 'INDEPENDENT' NEWSPAPERS MAY DISAPPEAR

LD211031 Paris LE MONDE in French 12 May 79 pp 1, 6 LD

[Erich Rouleau dispatch: "Power Struggle in Iran"--names in parentheses as published]

[Text] Tehran--Two major daily newspapers--the last two in the Iranian capital which have managed to preserve their independence despite everything--may well disappear. In fact, Ayatollah Khomeyni has just struck a severe, maybe fatal, blow against them. Throughout 10 May, the national radio broadcast at regular intervals the text of two communiques emanating from the imam's office which, as it were, "excommunicated" AYANDEGAN and PEYGHAM -E EMRUZ for publishing "false information" on that very day.

One of the communiques is explicit--it takes PEYGHAM-E EMRUZ to task for reporting that the imam is planning to form a national council which would include representatives of all religious and lay, rightist and leftist organizations. And yet this item of information, which we have reported (LE MONDE 10 May), has been checked at the most reliable sources and is undoubtedly true. With a complete lack of logic, the imam's office takes the view that the publication of such "deviationist" information "undermines national unity," terms which portend severe sanctions.

The communique aimed at AYANDEGAN, a paper with a wide circulation, is even more threatening, albeit vague as far as the accusations it contains are concerned. According to the communique, the imam "will never read" a paper "which is hostile to the revolution and the Muslim nation." In other words, it calls for a boycott of AYANDEGAN.

However, Ayatollah Khomeyni does not confuse the clique of journalists writing for the paper with its workers and employees who are deemed to be "good Muslims." According to the management of AYANDEGAN, the only reason for this distinction is to encourage the people to wreak vengeance on the writers. In addition to making accusations of a general nature, the communique asserts that the paper has been guilty of the crime of reprinting on Thursday "false information about the assassination of Ayatollah Motahhari."

Two documents published on AYANDEGAN's front page referred to the tragic death of that eminent member of the "Revolutionary Council and the imam's faithful disciple. One was a summary of an interview which the "guide" of the revolution had granted us (LE MONDE 10 May) and the other consisted of a collection of items explaining the ideology and policy of the Forqan organization which claimed responsibility for the "execution" of Ayatollah Motahhari.

Strange Behavior

The latter document, which was forwarded to the paper by Forqan members under mysterious circumstances, could well have shocked Ayatollah Khomeyni. That terrorist organization, which has been denounced by the ayatollah as a den of foreign agents, is described in it as an anticommunist and anti-imperialist genuinely Islamic movement with socialist leanings and, in addition, with a prestigious past since it has apparently fought against the shah as actively as against the regime of an "obscurantist clergy" established after the revolution under the imam's leadership. It is true that AYANDEGAN dissociated itself from this document, which it published "merely to provide factual information," by adding to it a commentary in which it stated that Forqan is probably a bogus Muslim organization formed by foreign services.

As for the LE MONDE interview, AYANDEGAN published excerpts from it under a huge headline, stating that the imam had exonerated the left from blame for Motahari's assassination. Anxious not to reprint any necessarily incomplete agency report, a representative of the paper contacted us with a view to obtaining exact quotations from statements made by the "leader of the revolution." Which of the two documents--that of LE MONDE or that of Forqan--was condemned by the communique published by the imam's office? Contradictory answers to this question have been given by members of the Qom patriarch's entourage.

One of them intimated to representatives of press agencies that the LE MONDE article was the target. However, one of Imam Khomeyni's closest advisers assured us in most categorical terms that the only document involved was that of Forqan.

Be that as it may, acting under the strict instructions, from the imam's office, Thursday night newspapers published a watered-down version of the interview from which a significant passage--the passage dealing with the exoneration of the left from blame for the assassination--was omitted. This omission might have seemed superfluous since the same newspapers had headlined a statement accusing U.S. service of the crime, thus implicitly absolving progressive organizations from any responsibility for it. However, such logic is out of place in a country in which the problem of power has not yet been resolved and where anything said could influence, at least in the opinion of the most interested people, the course of events by affecting the precarious balance of forces. Various theories, which could well be complementary, have been advanced in political circles to explain the strange behavior of the imam's representative.

These representatives have been obliged to come to terms with the rightwing of a clergy less incensed by the ayatollah's statements to LE MONDE than by the report published in AYANDEGAN. In the eyes of the conservative mullahs, who have organized the recent anti-communist demonstrations, the only aim of headlining the fact that the left has been exonerated from blame for Motahari's assassination was to nullify their efforts to gain undivided power in the new Islamic Republic. Their strategy is to try to discredit leftwing forces by arousing doubts about their innocence. While disclaiming all responsibility for the formulation of anticommunist slogans in recent days, several representatives of that wing of the clergy, especially Ayatollah (Mahdavi-Kani), a prominent member of the "Imam's committees," assert that the "people have reacted spontaneously." "The people," Ayatollah (Mahdavi-Kani) also told us, "can identify their enemies and those of Ayatollah Motahari who has devoted his life to the fight against Marxists."

Taking into account both the strategy of the right wing of the clergy and the wishes of progressive religious leaders, Imam Khomeyni tried, in the statements made to us, to maintain a certain ambiguity which AYANDEGAN journalists failed to notice. On the one hand, he denounced "agents of U.S. imperialism" and on the other hand he hinted that some of them concealed their identity under various "masks," including the bogus Muslim Forqan organization and the left.

Mr Bazargan and Communists

This theory can well please those who assert that a "convergence" exists "between the interests of imperialism and those of the left." For instance, Bani Sadr, one of the revolution's theoreticians, believes that there is no "real left" in Iran and that, because of their "Manichaean and Stalinist concept," the "so-called progressives" are merely "camouflaged rightists." Their behavior, especially their efforts to foment trouble among minorities which demand self-government, he told us, "is conducive to the success of the U.S. conspiracy." This thesis is prevalent in Islamic circles. For instance, Prime Minister Bazargan told us on Thursday: "Leftwing parties cooperate with the Shah's supporters, imperialists and Zionists." This is an additional reason, in his opinion, "why they should keep aloof from the quarrel" between the imam on the one hand, and AYANDEGAN and PEYGHAM-E EMRUZ on the other other.

Mr Bazargan is very hard on these two newspapers which could well succumb to the blows the imam has been dealing them. According to him, they are riddled with SAVAK and Tudeh Party (orthodox communists) agents between whom he, in any case, does not differentiate since, he asserts, the communists rallied to the shah regime in order to infiltrate it the more effectively. "They were everywhere--in the press, in the administration, in the government, in the Rastakhiz Party and even among the shah's close entourage," he told us before stating emphatically:

"Believe me, they literally controlled such newspapers as AYANDEGAN and PEYGHAM-E EMRUZ." Therefore, what can be more natural than that these two papers should drop the mask by indulging in an anti-Islam campaign, he asked. And he concluded sadly: "And we do not even have newspapers worthy of that name which might neutralize their lies and their spite." As far as he is concerned, anyway, there is nothing to add.

Finally, according to a third interpretation, the accusations levelled against the two newspapers are only a pretext which has been sought for some time with a view to stifling the last discordant voices among the Iranian press. This is the thesis propounded by AYANDEGAN's editorial council. "Attempts are being made to create a climate of terror in Iran," we were told by the editorial staff, "in order to facilitate the adoption of an antidemocratic constitution in the near future." This plot, which has been hatched in the name of the imam, who is unaware of what is being plotted behind his back, could well discredit him in the eyes of "public opinion."

"Spontaneous" Demonstrations

Be that as it may, the "excommunication" of both AYANDEGAN and PEYGHAM-E EMRUZ is bound to greatly affect the freedom of the press and, consequently, the type of regime which is to be installed in the coming weeks. In practice, censorship is now being generally applied. Just as under the shah, the imam's office has dictated a document prepared in advance--its own version of the interview given to LE MONDE--to the newspapers and has forbidden them to reprint the Forqan document published by AYANDEGAN on Thursday.

On Friday morning, the editorial committee of the paper met at an undisclosed place to discuss its future. Journalists no longer dare to go to their office which could well be stormed any time by either members of the Imam's committees or "demonstrators roused to indignation" by their "betrayal." The newspaper is considering the possibility of having to close down. The boycott decreed by the imam, his indirect appeal to printers urging them to stand up to the editorial committee and expected attacks against journalists, prompt the latter to stop publishing their papers and replace it with mimeographed pamphlets and leaflets. On Thursday afternoon "spontaneous demonstrations" had already taken place in several provincial cities where Islamic movement militants stopped the paper's distribution.

As for PEYGHAM-E EMRUZ, it will continue to be printed clandestinely. Its chief editor, Mr (Marzbam), believes that it would be a grave error to either close his newspaper down or embark on a general press strike, a step which certain leaders of the Press Association considered on Thursday. "This is exactly what the clergy hopes for, Mr (Marzbam) told us before adding: "The advocates of an uncompromising Islamic regime would take advantage of this to dismiss democratic journalists and replace them with hacks...."

NVOI: IRAN REJOICES OVER PUNISHMENT OF CRIMINALS

TA212012 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 2100 GMT 10 May 79 TA

[Unattributed commentary: "The Mourning of Imperialist Circles Is the Festivity of Our Nation"]

[Excerpts] Dear compatriots, the authorities and spokesmen of the U.S. Government once again are thinking about human rights and are permitting themselves to demand that the Islamic Republic abstain from trying and punishing those who violated and trampled the human rights of the Iranian people and plundered millions of their assets for years. Apparently U.S. authorities have forgotten that the black era of the rule of their known servant Mohammad Reza is over, an era when they were able to order and demand [words indistinct] the Iranian authorities. Today Iran is free forever from domination by Americans, a domination which was bone deep.

The trial of the executioners of our nation in the courts of the people's justice and their punishments are approved by the people of Iran, and the legal courts and U.S. [word indistinct] authorities which have emerged, so to speak, as defenders of human rights, are not able and will not be able to (?stave off) the firm resolution of our nation to punish the plunderers, murderers and traitors of the former regime. The experiences of our country show us that compassion toward the rapacious wolves of the former regime would mean oppression and injustice, and the remnants of the former regime are still not in the hands of the people, they are still not in the hands of the revolutionary forces, and have not given up terror against the people and the revolution of Iran. These criminals and traitors who are being duly punished by the courts of the people's justice, are those whose hands are stained with the blood of thousands of the noble and struggling sons of our nation. The blood of the martyrs on the road to freedom has not been washed from their (?hands). The remnants of these filthy and murderous elements [word indistinct] and the elements of SAVAK are still carrying out sabotage and murder in every corner of our country as well as in Tehran. These are the antirevolutionaries and [word indistinct] elements who, like poisonous snakes, have reached their (?targets) and at every opportune moment have struck a blow at the revolution of our nation and have injected their poison.

The heart-rending incidents of Gonbad and Kurdistan, which resulted in the murder of a great many innocent compatriots, were the bleak acts of the remnants of the former regime. They were planned by the CIA and carried out in our country on its orders. U.S. authorities do not want to recognize these atrocities, and when a group of innocent people of our country was being massacred, the question of human rights was not discussed. However, as soon as the criminals are punished for their crimes, U.S. false defenders of human rights start raising objections. The reason for this is clear. U.S. imperialism is the enemy of the Iranian people, enemy of the freedom and the revolution of the Iranian people, and the main cause of miseries and problems which the Iranian people have been suffering. That is why the people of our fatherland consider [word indistinct] one of their first responsibilities and are carrying it out.

The people of our fatherland (?approve) of punishing and executing the criminals of the corrupt former regime, because they know that those who are being punished for their crimes today, were the ones who issued orders for the massacre of the people. They are the SAVAK wolves who (?murdered) the most courageous sons of our nation in the streets and avenues. Today, under the present circumstances, the question is not the observance of juridical rules and regulations.

The important thing is the decisions and votes of the revolutionary courts versus the criminal, the usurpers and the murderer. Let the imperialist circles lament for their agents and hirelings who have served them during their lifetime and have committed crimes and atrocities. The mourning of the imperialists is the festivity of our tortured people.

INTERNATIONAL FIRMS SELL IRANIAN LICENSES

[Editorial Report WA] Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian on 8 May 1979, on pages 10 and 11, carried 70 advertisements of international firms offering to sell their licenses to do business in Iran. They were offered by U.S., French, German, British, Japanese, Swiss, Mexican, and Liechtenstein firms that had been operating in Iran. Most of these firms deal in petroleum, pharmaceutical, chemical, metallurgical, and petrochemical products.

Some of these firms are: Standard Oil (U.S.), Texaco Development (U.S.), Continental Oil (U.S.), EXXON Production Research (U.S.), Pfizer Inc. (U.S.), Pullman (U.S.), Eli Lilly (U.S.); Institut Francais du Petrole (French), Societe National ELF Aquitaine (French); DEGESCH (German); Schlumberger Overseas (U.K.); Mitsui Petrochemical Industries (Japanese), Teijin Ltd. (Japanese); Sandoz Ltd. (Swiss); Fierro Esponja (Mexican); and Etablissement Salgad (Liechtenstein).

Sale of these licenses is being handled by the single law firm of R. Aghababian & Co., Tehran.

AFGHANISTAN

TARAKI 30 APR INTERVIEW WITH FOREIGN NEWSMEN REPORTED

BK181035 Kabul TIMES in English 3 May 79 pp 1, 4 BK

[30 April interview given by Nur Mohammad Taraki, president of the Revolutionary Council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, to foreign journalists at Dilkusha Palace of the People's House in Kabul]

[Text] Kabul, 3 May (BAKHITAR)--The great leader of the people of Afghanistan Nur Mohammad Taraki, general secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA] and president of the Revolutionary Council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [DRA] granted an interview to some foreign journalists at the Dilkusha Palace of the People's House. Present during the press interview were also Khayal Mohammad Katawazi, minister of information and culture, and some heads of publishing agencies of that ministry.

Following is the full text of the interview:

At the beginning of the interview the great leader of the people of Afghanistan Nur Mohammad Taraki said:

I am happy to meet and welcome you journalists here. I hope that your brief stay in Kabul was a pleasant one. Once upon a time I was also a journalist and I expect you as a journalist to support me and to communicate truly what I say and reflect the facts. I am ready to answer all your questions. However do not repeat the questions so that we may have ample time at our disposal. I am ready to answer your questions.

TASS: Q. The people of Afghanistan celebrate the first anniversary of the revolution. Would you say something about the political, economic and social changes taking place as a result of peoples revolution?

Answer: We have made such great accomplishments and progress during this one year that to give even a brief account of them here is not possible. I hope you see our publications like the Kabul TIMES etc. There it has been recorded in details.

We have presented our one year activity not in detail but in brief in them. I will give a very brief account here. After the revolution our major accomplishment was decrees numbers six, seven and eight. In one of it we wiped out usury and mortgage and in the other we struck a balance between the rights of men and women and in the eighth decree we announced the land reforms--this has also been achieved to a large extent and possibly it will be completed within two to three months.

Another great step which we took without hesitation was the establishment of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan within three days of revolution and we also formed the Revolutionary Council. This is also another great step that we attach great importance to state affairs and right now we are celebrating its first anniversary.

ASSOCIATED PRESS:

Q. You said that the land reforms will be completed within three months. Will it be completed or implemented?

A. It is possible that it will be completed within three or four months.

Q. In the news it is often said that the hasty program of land reforms is encountering difficulties. Will you say something in this regard?

A. We have not experienced any difficulty in this regard; instead it is heading forward according to the program. The big majority of our peasants, that is 98 percent of them, is in its favour. Before the land distribution delegation reaches their place to give them land, they themselves open their turbans and begin land distribution amid dances and beating of drums and they express overwhelming joy. You might have seen sometimes in the television newsreel that the Afghan peasants had never experienced such a joy and mirth which they enjoy with land distribution.

GDR news agency:

Q. As the general secretary of the PDPA, please tell us about the role of your party in the Afghan society. How does it impel the young Afghan generation, men and women of Afghanistan, towards changing of the society?

A. Yes, we are happy that such a question has been raised. The role of the PDPA is best manifested in that how we staged the revolution. After the revolution all the people were organised together in unions in the leadership of our party, and leads them now too. Presently the party is omnipotent to shoulder the leadership of all these unions, and to help them, so that they do their own works. For example the Khalqi organisation for Afghan youth and women, workers and peasants unions, cooperatives etc. All of them shoulder their responsibilities freely and their general leadership is the party's responsibility. The evolution and progress of the party is also best manifested in that we were able recently to distribute party members and this was another factor in its evolution. It was further strengthened and today it has organisations everywhere even in villages. We do not brag that the party is fully evolved and needs no further headway.

ASSOCIATED PRESS:

Q. Would you please let us know the number of party membership cards distributed, so far?

A. This is still continuing, and every day hundreds and thousands of cards are being distributed. The plan and its lists have been completed and the distribution is in progress.

Our party is not like those in certain countries, just to pay a few pennies as membership fee and to become the member of the party. Here unless a new entrant completes a satisfactory trial period of eight months to one year, we do not accept him in the party. Thus we consider our party as very much powerful because well-tested persons have been absorbed in it.

Swedish broadcasting:

Q. Before the revolution the party membership reached 30,000, 40,000 or even 50,000. Would you please tell that since the revolution and at the moment what is the strength of the party and how many more people have been absorbed in it?

A. This will be known soon how much the number has increased; no doubt the number has gone up because now it is the ruling party and the leadership of the party and the state is in its hands. We have been cautious not to allow everybody in the party. This I say again that as soon as we complete the distribution of cards the exact number will be known and we will announce and will not hide it from anyone.

IZVESTIYA:

Q. How do you see the 60 years of friendship and goodneighbourliness between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union and in what stage these relations are now?

A. I should say that these relations have such a prominent and shining history that I think--the best relations which could be in the world should be like this. We consider it a record and a model.

Cuban news agency:

Q. How has the DRA established and developed its relations in the framework of its foreign policy with all the countries. In particular how active a role will Afghanistan play in the nonaligned movement and also in the heads of state summit meet of nonaligned countries in the future?

A. Our relations with all countries are based on mutual cooperation, noninterference in the internal affairs of others and coexistence. We follow this policy and will preserve our non-alignment just as we have done so far. In future too we will firmly preserve the policy of nonalignment and in the coming summit conference, to which we are looking forward anxiously, we will play our active role.

Mongolian journalist:

Q. Mongolia, in order to achieve a socialist society, without passing through the capitalism stage moved towards socialism, and during these sixty years it is on this road, today the DRA is also making efforts to build such a society void of exploitation of man by man. Please explain the proximity existing in the efforts of the two countries, and also how do you evaluate the relations between the DRA and Mongolia and your efforts in this regard?

A. I should say that our relations with Mongolia are based on brotherhood and friendship. As you said now, our relations are good and will be further expanded and improved and we will build a society void of exploitation of man by man. We will definitely make efforts in Afghanistan that exploitation of man by man is removed and because in Afghanistan the conditions are favourable. I am sure that we will build such a society soon. For example, in five to six or to ten years time we might lay the foundation of such a society in Afghanistan. Therefore it is a long way and we will achieve it.

BULGARIAN NEWS AGENCY:

Q. Would you please throw some light on relations between the DRA and People's Republic of Bulgaria and how can these relations be developed further?

A. I am cocksure that these relations will expand further and in the path of evolution of these relations we do not have any obstacle. As we have said before in brief that in those countries where there exists no exploitation of man by man our relations are very cordial with them because we are also moving towards the same goal and I am sure in achieving this goal our relations will be improved further than this and we will help each other.

ASSOCIATED PRESS:

Q. It has been repeatedly said that Iran and Pakistan have been interfering in the internal affairs of Afghanistan and they have a number of times made armed incursions in the border areas and border establishments of Afghanistan. Some news available point to unrest in Mazare Sharif. Do you think of any Soviet hand in this unrest?

A. We have documented proof that Iran interferes in our internal affairs. It infiltrated 4,000 people in Herat in the costumes of our Herati brothers and touched off the bloody episode there, but we brought it under control. However, some of these infiltrators escaped to Maimana and not to Mazare Sharif--they were chased there too. A large number of them were captured and the rest are under surveillance.

These are the same Iranians who came from Iran and were on the run, but they were hotly chased and cannot evade us. About the hand of Soviet Union it is a totally funny question.

Q. I would put my question this way--whether any Pakistani or Iranian infringement has taken place near the Soviet borders or not?

A. They are the Iranians who have escaped from Herat towards Maimana; we have dissipated them there and have brought them under control.

Q. You said that those who fled from Herat to Maimana are under your control or is it that they are still on the loose or have you them?

A. This does not have a nature of war. If any one of them is hiding in a cave or hole and is still evading us, we will pull him out; and he does not have the power to fight.

Q. This shows that you do not have any prisoners of war. Do you have any documented proof of the Iranian intrusion in your internal affairs?

A. About 20 days ago we captured some persons and showed them to the people, and have also taken their pictures and displayed them.

Finnish Journalist:

Q. You said earlier that one of the revolutionary measures in Afghanistan was the coming into being of the DRA. Would you please say what is the concealed meaning of the DRA? Whether the night curfew which is still enforced and some censors prevailing have a special and temporary nature or are of permanent nature.

A. I tell you that democracy from your viewpoint is something else. But democracy carries meaning. Democracy means that measures should be taken in the benefit of the majority. We consider our state as democratic because it works in favour of 98 per cent of workers, toilers and peasants. It is for this reason democratic. If it acts against two percent of feudal lords and usurers it is the true justice. Here no censor exists for worker and peasant. Censor is only practiced against the enemies of workers and peasants who are not more than two percent, and we are proud that we have such censor on feudals and usurers.

Night curfew is imposed for security reasons. I have repeatedly said that some of our neighbours are at daggers drawn against our revolution. We have declared that Iran and Pakistan both interfere in our internal affairs and we are compelled to enforce night curfew--but only in Kabul. There is no curfew in other parts of Afghanistan. This is a precautionary measure and has no relation to lack of democracy. We have real democracy as compared to any capitalist country and claim that our state should be considered as a democratic one because it is the state of the toiling people.

FINANCIAL TIMES:

Q. What was the nature of the incident occurring in a military garrison in Jalalabad some-times ago and how many persons were killed in that?

A. This is a very trifling question. You can go to Jalalabad and see it for yourself that there is nothing. You might have been influenced by the BBC propaganda--you are justified in that. But I invite you to go and see the Jalalabad garrison and the city where all are like brothers.

The FINANCIAL TIMES correspondent said, is this the answer to my question that nothing has happened in Jalalabad.

A. I say that nothing has happened in Jalalabad. I again tell you to go to Jalalabad and see. But if two civilians or two soldiers or five or ten persons fight a feud, the BBC says that all have rebelled. I am sorry what sort of reply should I give to such questions.

Washington POST:

Q. While the celebration of the anniversary of your revolution continues please say what measures has your party taken about the prisoners you are holding and how many people are in jail presently?

A. I do not remember properly. But a little before the anniversary of the revolution I had signed the pardon decree of a large number of prisoners but I do not remember their number. In all of our prisons probably between one thousand to one thousand one hundred political prisoners are interned. The number of the ordinary criminals may be large.

POLISH NEWS AGENCY:

Q. Please shed light on the salient features of the five year development plan of the DRA and what role will it have in bringing closer your society to a society void of exploitation of man by man?

A. We have published the directives of the five year plan and this plan will help to a great extent in the building of that society of ours and will be the beginning of the foundation and our gross national income will rise considerably--the estimate of which has been published.

FRANCE PRESS:

Q. In the month of September last year Hafizollah Amin announced that a conspiracy was discovered--masterminded by Gen. Abdul Qadir and his accomplices. It was announced at that time that they will be tried in near future but since then many months have passed. What decision has been taken about their trial?

A. There is no doubt that they will be put on trial and all the necessary documents have been gathered in this regard. But we deliberate this point very carefully so that no innocent is lost or is killed. It is possible that their destiny is determined after sometimes. Here whoever has acted against the revolution, we have taken action against him.

ASSOCIATED PRESS:

Q. Whoever comes to Kabul sees your photos on the buildings and stores. Sometimes ago Hafizollah Amin said that in Afghanistan personality cult is repugnant to class struggle. Do you have any comments on this? Have all these photographs been installed upon your directives or how do you see it?

A. This is a good question. I am happy that you have put across this question. The people of Afghanistan are really a noble people. They are good in the sense that if somebody does even a small service to them they give a lot of respect to him. Therefore our party and we, who have delivered the people of Afghanistan from the intrigues of imperialists, are highly respected by them and they erect my photograph everywhere. I tell them not to do so but they still install them. They say that you have delivered us from the clutches of imperialists and their toadies and this never tantamounts to personality cult. We, our party and our party principles are vigorously against the personality cult, but if somebody works for the cause of the people of Afghanistan we respect him. I also respect him and they also respect him, this gratuity has no relation to personality cult.

Q. You said that you tell them not to do this but they do so. Is it not possible to forbid the press where these photographs and slogans are printed not to do so?

A. This is equivalent to use of force. We do not force anybody to do something. If we do so that means that anti-imperialist feelings will again plummet here. But I say why do you publish photographs of Carter in the newspapers. His photographs are everywhere. They are in your embassies. But we have never objected to it then why do you raise such objection. We do not say anything about personal matters; we have respect for him, the number of his photographs should still increase; this does not concern me and neither I will question it.

FINANCIAL TIMES:

Q. Does the land ownership documents given to the peasants of Afghanistan allow them to own the same plot of land or just give them the right to work on that plot? Is collective farming foreseen at some stage?

A. We have given the land to peasants and they own them. He can work on it and it belongs to him. We have not leased or rented him the land. We have given him the documents of land so that he works on it and wins his bread.

We want to establish cooperatives in future; this is our basic aim. If this does not happen we cannot provide them seed, tractors, chemical fertiliser, etc. We should bring them together under cooperatives, so that to better provide them these services. And that you say on what pattern it would be I should say that cooperatives here are not based on the model of any country but it is an Afghan model. Just as our revolution was a model so will be every other thing and the cooperatives will be established according to the culture and the way of thinking of the people of Afghanistan.

The ASSOCIATED PRESS correspondent further asked that whether the peasants acquiring the ownership documents have the right to sell their lands.

A. No. They cannot do this. This is not a business that they acquire free land from us and then sell it for a few Afghanis. Here again exploitation finds way and we will not allow anybody to exploit. However they can transfer it to their sons or anybody else according to the law.

Swedish Journalist:

Q. Some religious elements who do not have sufficient education and strictly adhere to traditions, religious laws and mores, if they think that the land given to them this way is not legal, how do you convince such people who are not educated that this is the right way?

A. We have neither seen such a person in Afghanistan and nor in the world who would deny accepting something free. You cite an example in the world. So far, we have distributed land in Afghanistan, you see for yourself, that the people welcome this amid beating of drums and performing of national dances, because the land belongs to the state and the state distributes it to them and they will of course be happy.

There is nobody here who has denied or denies this and we should not deny this because they are the toiling Muslims and for a Muslim abidance by the order of the top executive is binding, particularly if it is the order of the head of the state to take the land; therefore it is fully permissible.

Radio Moscow:

Q. Would you please say something about solving the problems of nationalities?

A. This is a very good question. We have taken very appropriate measure for nationalities. We have paid attention to their language, mores and customs and all other matters. Prior to the revolution no nationality had permission to carry out publication in its own language but now publications come out in Uzbeki, Turkmani, Baluchi, Pushtu and Dari. We have taken into consideration all sided issues of nationalities including rights, mores, customs and equality. This system will be further evolved in Afghanistan and will reach another stage which will be more in favour of all minorities and nationalities. Similarly we have provided ground in schools for the education in mother tongues for the children of different nationalities.

FINANCIAL TIMES:

Q. Taking into view the fact that the leaders and members of the Revolutionary Council of Afghanistan are all Pushtu speaking, is this not resented by some of the minorities of Afghanistan?

A. Here nobody has this privilege and nobody nourishes this feeling. Our state is based on class struggle and not on class struggle and not on racial or language basis. All the feudals and exploiters are looked down whether they are Afghans, Uzbek, Hazara, or Tajek or any other.

Only the toilers of all the nationalities are our brothers. Therefore no feeling of repulsion exists against us. All the works of our state and Revolutionary Council are based on class struggle that is in the benefit of the toiling people of all nationalities. Thus the members of the Revolutionary Council come from all the nationalities according to the class struggle and not on the basis of this intrigue mentioned by you, that we maintain the balance among nationalities.

ASSOCIATED PRESS:

Q. The free money exchange market (Sarai Shazdah) in Kabul represents capitalism. On what basis have you granted permission to this in the framework of the democratic government? What benefit do you derive from it and how long will it last?

A. This is a commercial market. We want expansion of trade. We pay attention to our national traders. This transaction of money is necessary for Afghanistan--it should be there and it will continue.

Washington POST:

Q. We observed during the military parade on the occasion of celebration of the first anniversary of the revolution of Afghanistan some Soviet made new weapons. Would you please elucidate that what kind of new weapons you have acquired from the Soviet Union and also the number of Soviet advisors in Afghanistan?

A. It is since 25 years that the Soviet Union is providing armament to Afghanistan. Just as you give to all other places, there is no doubt about it that they too give arms to us and as regards its quantity it is not a secret. Whatever amount we need and we can manage we get. We acquire them now and will do so in the future, too. Everybody seeks help from friends. We also purchase in cash. This is correct.

The number of advisors was mentioned sometime ago. At the moment I do not remember exactly. It might be between one thousand to one thousand one hundred. From this number about 300 are serving in the armed forces. This is so, but these figures are miniscule as compared to Pakistan or Iran and other countries where 60,000 to 70,000 American advisors or advisors from other countries were present. These figures are not comparable with those.

Swedish broadcasting:

Q. A few days before the Saur Revolution a man named Khaibar was murdered. After the revolution it was said that you had been preparing to topple Daud since sometime, but this revolution took place before schedule. Did the murder of Khaibar expedite this revolution?

A. Our revolution had no link to the murder of one person, instead was initiated when Daud attacked us and threw me in jail and also all my friends. If he would not have imprisoned us we would have staged our revolution in the month of Assad. Because we had selected the month of Saratan which means 'cancer' and we wanted to stage revolution in Assad which means lion. We wanted to bring lion's revolution.

FINANCIAL TIMES:

Q. You said earlier that the capitalists who are in Afghanistan you consider them as national traders and encourage them. Will permission be given to capitalists and foreign investors to invest in exploration and exploitation of natural resources of Afghanistan?

A. Yes we will permit. In this regard we have rules and regulations. Any foreign investor if he wants to invest in Afghanistan can do so in accordance with provisions of the law. We have published this law. When you go to England do carry a copy of this law with you so that the capitalists there may know that how we deal with them.

Q. How much wheat do you plan to import during the current year and please name the agreements signed in this regard?

A. So far we have not felt the need to import wheat but as a precautionary measure we have estimated to import some 300,000 tons. That too in case we need it. We have selected the place from where to import it. But for the time being the Soviet Union has given 100,000 tons of wheat as grant. India has given 50,000 tons, United States has also given a few thousand and so also some other countries. At the moment we do not feel any pinch so as to import wheat from other places. "Here comes the rain. It is in fact wheat which is falling."

ASSOCIATED PRESS:

Q. Turning to your earlier answer I would like to know whether among the Iranians, those infiltrators which have been arrested and shown to the people, had any Pakistani also been interned along with them or not? You have not said anything in this regard.

Has the land belonging to mosques been distributed in the framework of the land reform?

A. The intervention of Iranians was mentioned along with the disturbance in Herat. We have shown them, some journalists took photographs and films of them. From the Pakistani side this is too often repeated, if we arrest every day and show to the people the number would reach thousands. We do not want the issue to become too pungent because we want to live with Pakistan in harmony as good neighbors. We remain patient and tolerate it. You may not know it. The Pakistanis do not come here as Pakistanis but interfere in the guise of Afghans. But if the need be we will expose them. If this continues further we will really exhibit them in markets and will certainly send them to United States to you.

Swedish Journalist:

Q. As you have pointed out it means that Ziaul Haq, president of Pakistan--who is regarded as your enemy--does he issue these instructions to send these people to Afghanistan?

A. We do not consider him as enemy. This is your interpretation. But I do not know why he does so. But we do not consider him an enemy. Maybe sooner or later he will realise this and stop sending such elements to us.

Q. Did you ask him to stop these activities?

A. Day before yesterday I again made such a demand in my speech.

GDR correspondent:

Q. We see that some of the mosques in Kabul have been illuminated in honor of the first anniversary of Saur Revolution. Does this show that those busy in religious affairs are also cooperating with you?

After the revolution you have paid due attention to a great problem of Afghanistan that is instituting education reforms. My question mainly concerns the annihilation of illiteracy and Jihad, which you have declared in the country against illiteracy.

A. We have illuminated mosques but the imperialists and their lackeys accuse us that we have put the mosques on flames. You have seen yourself, and it is good that you have mentioned that we have illuminated the mosques. We have illuminated the mosques just like all other buildings and places. We have also illuminated the mosques you have seen it yourself. But you will see that the BBC will say that 500 houses have been burnt and will give it more coverage. It is good that you raised this matter here. We support the mosques, we have respected them and respect them and have respect for them.

Regarding your second question I would say that we have really instituted reforms in the field of education. Our main redress in education is that we promoted education from the qualitative and quantitative points of views, as compared to past. Similarly in the illiteracy courses about one million people are busy studying. In the past they were prohibited from gaining knowledge and education, but we want the people of Afghanistan to be literate, because illiteracy is the great enemy of the people. Thus we will teach our people to read and write and this is to make literate the adults and also the children.

ASSOCIATED PRESS:

Q. Referring to my earlier unanswered question, let us know whether land belonging to mosques has also been confiscated under the land reforms law?

A. Unlike your churches or papals who own land, in Afghanistan the mosques do not own much land, therefore this question does not arise; land of which mosque have we confiscated or of which should we confiscate? The state supports all the mosques and repairs them and particularly in the cities it also gives salaries to the mullahs.

FINANCIAL TIMES:

Q. You have said that you support mosques and clergymen. Would you tell us that how many leading Shiite Muslims have been imprisoned by you and how are your relations with the Shiites of the country?

A. I am overjoyed with your question this is a meritorious question. We have not jailed anybody for the sake of being Shiite. Whomever we have punished or put in jail is one who has acted or stood against the revolution. If they not act against the revolution the Shiites are our toiling brothers. Just like all other Muslim toilers they are dear to us. We have not and will not arrest anybody on the basis of religion and will not do so.

Washington POST:

Q. You said that in Afghanistan no religious leader has been jailed or if anybody is in jail it is not on the basis of religion, but only those opposing the Saur Revolution and are its enemies have been jailed. Would you be kind enough to give some further explanation in this regard?

I have put up this question because those who had kidnapped the U.S. ambassador in Kabul had demanded the release of a Shiite leader in jail.

A. I repeat that we will not and have not jailed anybody on the basis of religion. Whoever stands against our revolution--whoever he may be--we will put him in jail and will really punish him--this was the reply to one question.

Y u said that Dubs was kidnapped so that a Shiite leader is freed. This might have been told to you by the terrorists. They did not tell us. They took the name of somebody known as Bais, who was neither a Shiite nor was in Afghanistan. Thus the question of his being Shiite never arises. We have not jailed anybody in the name of Shiite or under any other name and this is never tolerable in Afghanistan to imprison anybody on the pretext of Shiite or Sunni, on racial basis or under any other cover.

Washington POST:

Q. I would like to ask something about the kidnap and murder of the U.S. ambassador. Did you reach any conclusion? Did Sarandoy or other state organs draw any conclusion and whether this was communicated to the U.S. Embassy in Kabul?

A. All the four persons were killed. We had no one to interrogate.

The president of the Revolutionary Council in reply to a question of one of the correspondents that he can very well converse in English and why does he use an interpreter said, "I want my people to know that what questions you are asking and what replies do I give. Therefore I will talk to you in my own language otherwise I would have talked to you in English directly."

Bulgarian correspondent:

Q. The committees for defence of revolution have been established throughout the country, represent real democracy in Afghanistan that the people themselves defend their revolution. The next part of my question is that can we consider the nature of the state of Afghanistan as the revolutionary democratic dictatorship of workers and peasants or not, or the nature of the present state of Afghanistan can be explained under some other name?

A. This is correct we can call it democratic dictatorship because it is in favor of 98 percent of the people. And this itself is democracy. Democracy in the ancient Greek language meant the government of the people and this is people's government, this is the government of 98 percent of the people thus it is democracy.

FINANCIAL TIMES:

Q. Concerning the kidnap and murder of the U.S. ambassador you have said that the deceased ambassador was kidnapped and murdered by four persons, who were also killed consequently. Does this mean that the matter is closed with you. The next part of my question is that did investigation take place after this or not?

A. We were very much interested to find it out but regretfully we were not successful to probe the real motive behind his murder. We can say one thing and that is the conspiracy of our enemies was aimed at cutting off the aid which the United States was giving us. We are still probing it. Last night in a reception I told the charge d'affaires of United States to make efforts to erase the misunderstanding between Afghanistan and United States and we will find out the motive behind the killing of the U.S. Ambassador Dubs even after 20 years and will not cease tracking it and the perpetrator of this crime will be brought to books.

ASSOCIATED PRESS:

Q. Do you think the assistance which the United States used to give Afghanistan has now been suspended as the result of this incident, and that United States was of the opinion that the concerned authorities of Afghanistan had not taken appropriate measures, resulting in the death of U.S. ambassador?

A. I would say that the security forces had done the maximum, and we did our level best to rescue him. Unfortunately our enemies who are also the enemies of United States were successful and they aimed at creating misunderstanding between us with the murder of the ambassador.

Q. Is the discontinuation of U.S. aid the result of this incident?

A. If this would not have been the case, the U.S. would have cut its aid earlier, as it was cut after this incident, so how should we interpret it.

Our great and beloved leader told the journalists:

It is a golden opportunity to ask any question you may have, so that not to repent afterwards that why did we not ask this or that question.

ASSOCIATED PRESS:

Q. It is said that you have asked the Government of Czechoslovakia to extradite Babrak Karmal and his associates to Afghanistan in the light of the good will relations which exist between the two countries. What is the reason behind the reluctance of Czechoslovakia to extradite them?

A. We have brotherly relations with Czechoslovakia and on the basis of these relations we are sure that Czechoslovakia will never give shelter to the enemies of our revolution. We have not made such a demand to anybody and will not do so. They themselves realise that the enemies of our revolution wherever they are, such countries do not give them a place.

Q. Are they not in Czechoslovakia?

A. If they be there our friends and our brother countries will never give a place to the enemies of our revolution. Instead they work for strengthening of our revolution.

Q. On the 11th of this month Hafizollah Amin, first minister said that some people are making efforts to influence you--is this correct?

A. I have read his interview, there was nothing of this sort. During the one year in the interviews which he has granted I have not seen such a thing in them. I have read his interviews.

German Democratic Republic journalist:

Q. As I have learned there are about three million Koochis in Afghanistan. Please explain the measures taken or being taken by your government as regards Koochis?

A. We have prepared land for Koochis but will not force them to settlement, that is will not give them land by force. If they want, we will give them land. However, we have a program for their rehabilitation and have a good life. We have also taken and are taking measures for the education of their sons. But our major plan is to provide them land and to encourage them to this end.

FINANCIAL TIMES:

Q. Have special measures been taken for the control of narcotics trafficking from Afghanistan towards Pakistan and Iran?

A. Three or four days ago you heard that we made a big haul of opium and still we continue to do so. This is our program and our promise to United Nations that on the basis of the wants of humanity and in its benefit, we want to stop any export of narcotics from Afghanistan. We do not want to play with the life of the people in the name of democracy and in the name of unlawful economic enterprise.

ASSOCIATED PRESS:

Q. Do you think, during the implementation of land reforms, that some of the party members have acted sentimentally. Have they acted at occasions harshly--for example, in a quest for eradication of illiteracy they have used force in enrolling women in literacy courses instead of encouraging them to do so themselves?

A. Distribution of land continues according to the set program. It has no relation to the sentiments of the land distribution commissions working there. We have given them the program and they implement it. At times I have told the youth to have very good relations with the people. This is the guidance which I provide them. I have the information that they behaved well. However they are human beings and are liable to have committed some errors. I talk to them in order to remove these errors.

In order to educate women we have opened literacy courses in every nook and corner of the country but have in no case enrolled the women in these courses by force. We have not enrolled even a single woman by force in these courses and will not do so. Of course if they voluntarily come forward this would be something good.

When the questions of the journalists ended in an extremely free and democratic atmosphere our great and revolutionary leader Nur Mohammad Taraki, general secretary of the Central Committee of the PDPA and president of the Revolutionary Council said: Really it was a very good press conference. I will cherish its memory for a long time to come, specially your questions were very interesting and I hope you might have got your answers.

In the end the journalists applauded the great leader with continuous clapping.

BANGLADESH

BURMESE PRESIDENT BEGINS VISIT 22 MAY

BK220513 Dacca Overseas Service in English 0445 GMT 22 May 79 BK

[Text] President U Ne Win of Burma arrived in Dacca this morning on a 3-day state visit to Bangladesh. He was received at the airport by President Ziaur Rahman. This is the second visit of the Burmese president to Bangladesh since independence.

During his stay in Dacca President Ne Win will hold formal talks with the president. He will also visit the National Martyrs Memorial at Savar and the Bangladesh Rice Research Institute at (Jadabpur).

Our diplomatic correspondent says that summit level talks between the two countries will explore all possible avenues to further strengthen the bilateral cooperation between them. Bangladesh and Burma, both being members of the nonaligned movement and with a common border and historical and economic ties, will view important matters, including international issues. As developing countries, both hold similar views on many international issues and have been working closely at various world forums. They have consistently expressed solidarity with the developing third world countries and reiterated full support for the establishment of a new international economic order based on justice and equity. Goodneighborly relations between them were demonstrated by the signing of the agreement in July last year providing for repatriation of Burmese refugees who had crossed over to Bangladesh early last year.

INDIA

VAJPAYEE DEPARTS EN ROUTE TO MIDDLE EAST

BK200400 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 20 May 79 BK

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr Vajpayee, left New Delhi last night on a 10-day tour of four Arab countries. He will be visiting Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Syria and Iraq. Mr Vajpayee is accompanied by the foreign secretary, Mr Jagat Mehta.

Talking to newsmen before his departure from Bombay en route to Kuwait, the external affairs minister said at Delhi airport that there can be no lasting peace in West Asia until there is a comprehensive settlement acceptable to all the parties in the region. Such a settlement, he said, should include the withdrawal of Israeli forces from all occupied Arab territories and the restoration of legitimate rights of the Palestinians.

Mr Vajpayee said he will visit some of the projects being built with India's assistance in these countries. He said he would also take this opportunity to further strengthen India's relations with the Arab world.

About the nonaligned movement, the external affairs minister said it is passing through a critical phase, but he expressed the confidence that the difficulties being faced by the movement will be overcome.

MRS GANDHI NOT TO CONTEST THANJAVUR PARLIAMENTARY SEAT

BK200753 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 20 May 79 BK

[Text] Nine persons, all independents, have so far filed their nominations for the Thanjavur Lok Sabha byelection in Tamil Nadu. According to an agency report, Mrs Gandhi is not contesting.

The Tamil Nadu Congress-I president, Mr (R.V. Swaminathan), told newsmen at Madras airport today that the parliamentary board of the All-India Congress-I has decided not to field any candidate for the byelection. This, he said, is because of a complete change in the attitude of the chief minister, Mr M.G. Ramachandran.